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FILE - In this March 23, 1998 file photo, actress Gloria Stuart arrives at the 70th Annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Stuart was nominated for best performance by an actress in a supporting role in the film 'Titanic.'

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

'Titanic' co-star Gloria Stuart dies at 100

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Gloria Stuart, the 1930s Hollywood beauty who gave up acting for 30 years and later became the oldest Academy Award acting nominee as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," has died. She was 100.

Stuart died in her sleep Sunday night at her Los Angeles home, her grandson Benjamin Stuart Thompson said Monday.

In her youth, Stuart was a blond beauty who starred in B pictures as well as some higher-profile ones such as "The Invisible Man," Busby Berkeley's "Gold Diggers of 1935" and two Shirley Temple movies, "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." But by the mid-1940s she had retired. She resumed acting in the 1970s, doing occasional television and film work.

Continued on Page B10

Obama presses for longer school years

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Kim promotes son to general



In this photo released by Korean Central News Agency via Korea News Service, delegates to the ruling Worker's Party meeting make their way upon arriving at Pyongyang station, North Korea, on Monday Sept. 27, 2010. North Korea holds its biggest political meeting in decades Tuesday, amid intense speculation that members of leader Kim Jong Il's family will assume key positions in the ruling party to solidify their rule for another generation.

Associated Press

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WAITING GAME



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, unseen, delivers a speech during a meeting at the Elysee Palace Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 in Paris. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that Israel must choose between peace or settlements as Israel's 10-month settlement construction slowdown expired.

Associated Press

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Hearing begins in alleged plot to murder Afghans

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press Writer
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — Despite the array of prescription drugs he was taking, an Army soldier's videotaped statement describing how he and his colleagues randomly killed three Afghan civilians appeared to be a reliable account, an investigator testified Monday at a hearing into one of the most serious war-crimes cases to emerge from the Afghan war.

Cpl. Jeremy Morlock of Wasilla, Alaska, is among five Stryker soldiers charged with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder. In interviews with Army investigators, he described a plot led by Staff Sgt. Calvin Gibbs to randomly kill civilians while on patrol in Kandahar Province.

Prosecutors have also alleged that members of the platoon mutilated Afghan corpses and even collected fingers and other body parts, and that some posed for photos with Afghan corpses.

Morlock's attorneys are seeking to suppress the statements he made, saying they were made under the influence of muscle relaxants,

sleeping pills and anti-nausea medicine prescribed for repeat concussions. Morlock was being evacuated from Afghanistan for apparent traumatic brain injury when he was questioned in May.

But Army Special Agent Anderson D. Wagner testified that Morlock was articulate during the interviews and that his account was corroborated by others in the unit. The hearing will determine whether the case proceeds to a court martial; Morlock and the others could face the death penalty if convicted.

"He made good eye contact. He was able to recount events that happened several months ago," Wagner said by audio feed from Kandahar.

Portions of Morlock's interviews were aired by ABC News, and The Associated Press has reviewed statements he made under oath in which he claimed Gibbs — the highest ranking soldier accused — planned "scenarios" during which they could kill civilians. For example, Morlock said, if they came across someone in a village that had previously been flagged as having Taliban influence, they could toss a grenade at the civilian and claim they had been responding to a threat.

"Gibbs had pure hatred for all Afghans and constantly referred to them as savages," Morlock said in the statement reviewed by the AP. "Sometime after Christmas 2009, Gibbs gave me a (fragmentary) grenade and told me that if the situation presented itself that we should go ahead and run with the grenade scenario that he had briefed to us."

A few weeks later, in January, the first of the killings was carried out, followed by one in February and one in early May. In each, prosecutors say, Morlock and Gibbs enlisted one other soldier to be involved. Lawyers for those three say they either deny involvement or that their participation was unwitting. Gibbs' attorney says all three killings were "appropriate engagements."

The case raised serious questions about the Army's handling of the case. Spc. Adam Winfield, who is charged in the final killing, sent troubled Facebook messages home to his parents in Florida after the first killing. He wrote that he was being threatened to keep his mouth shut about it and that he didn't know what to do.

His father made nearly half a dozen calls to military



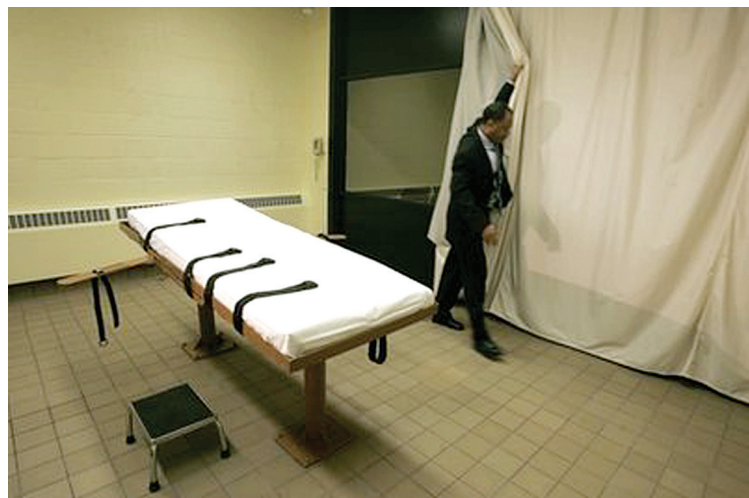
Staff Sgt. Jarod Perkioniemi, right, and Sgt. Fritz Butac, left, Army public affairs officers, stand outside of a military court building at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state on Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. An Article 32 hearing, similar to a grand jury investigation, is being held Monday inside the building to determine if there is enough evidence for a court martial for U.S. Army Spec. Jeremy Morlock of Wasilla, Alaska who is one of five 5th Stryker brigade soldiers accused of killing civilians for sport earlier this year in Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

officials that day, and he said he warned them about the ongoing plot and the threats against his son.

But no suspects were arrested

until May, when a witness in a drug case in the unit alerted investigators to what he considered unjustified killings. □



FILE - This November 2005 file photo shows the death chamber at the Southern Ohio Corrections Facility in Lucasville, Ohio. How states put condemned inmates to death with drugs could be changing as a shortage of the anesthetic used to render prisoners unconscious extends into 2011, jeopardizing some executions.

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato, File)

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS, AP Legal Affairs Writer
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Some executions in the U.S. have been put on hold because of a shortage of one of the drugs used in lethal injections from coast to coast.

Several of the 35 states that rely on lethal injection are either scrambling to find sodium thiopental — an anesthetic that renders the condemned inmate unconscious — or considering using another drug. But both routes are strewn with legal or ethical roadblocks.

Some US executions held up by shortage of drug

The shortage delayed an Oklahoma execution last month and led Kentucky's governor to postpone the signing of death warrants for two inmates. Arizona is trying to get its hands on the drug in time for its next execution, in late October. California, with an inmate set to die on Wednesday, said the shortage will force it to stop executions after Sept. 30.

The sole U.S. manufacturer, Hospira Inc. of Lake Forest, Ill., has blamed the shortage on unspecified problems with its raw-material suppliers and said new batches of sodium thiopental will not be available until January at the earliest. Nine states have a total of 17

executions scheduled between now and the end of January, including Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

"We are working to get it back onto the market for our customers as soon as possible," Hospira spokesman Dan Rosenberg said.

But at least one death penalty expert was skeptical of Hospira's explanation, noting that the company has made it clear it objects to using its drugs for executions. Hospira also makes the two other chemicals used in lethal injections.

Sodium thiopental is a barbiturate, used primarily to anesthetize surgical patients

and induce medical comas. It is also used to help terminally ill people commit suicide and sometimes to euthanize animals.

Thirty-three of the states that have lethal injection employ the three-drug combination that was created in the 1970s: First, sodium thiopental is given by syringe to put the inmate to sleep. Then two other drugs are administered: pancuronium bromide, which paralyzes muscles, and potassium chloride, which stops the heart.

Ohio and Washington state use just one drug to carry out executions: a single, extra-large dose of sodium thiopental. □



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Ga. megachurch pastor's flock standing by him

By ERRIN HAINES,
Associated Press Writer

LITHONIA, Ga. — Many followers of embattled Baptist megachurch leader Bishop Eddie Long remained unwavering in their support as their pastor vowed to fight like David versus Goliath against claims he lured four young men into sex. Casting himself as the Bible's ultimate underdog, Long went before congregants who packed his 10,000-seat church Sunday and promised to battle claims in lawsuits filed last week that he abused his "spiritual authority."

Three members of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta and a fourth from a North Carolina branch filed lawsuits last week alleging Long used his standing and gifts including cash, cars and travel to coerce them into sexual relations when they were 17 or 18 years old.

"I feel like David against Goliath. But I got five rocks, and I haven't thrown one yet," Long said Sunday in his first public remarks since the lawsuits were filed. He stopped short of denying the allegations but implied he was wronged by them.

"I have never in my life portrayed myself as a perfect man. But I am not the man that's being portrayed on the television. That's not me. That is not me," he said.

Long's brief addresses to the congregation were met with thunderous applause and an outpouring of support during services that were equal

parts part rock concert and pep rally. The sanctuary was nearly filled to its 10,000-seat capacity for both the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Many lined up two hours before the doors of the church opened. Cheryl Barnett, who has attended New Birth since Long became senior pastor more than 20 years ago, said she was "very much fulfilled with what he had to say."

"It was simple. It was direct. He's standing in the scriptures. That's what we would expect from our minister," she said. Followers prayed, sang and embraced one another as they rallied around their senior pastor. Wearing a cream-colored suit as he strode into the church sanctuary hand-in-hand with his wife, Vanessa, Long paused to soak in the adoration.

During the second service, however, one young man in a blue shirt stood up and shouted: "We want to know the truth, man!" He was quickly escorted out and did not return.

After the service, many expressed support for their leader.

"We know and we love Bishop," said Annie Cannon, a seven-year member of New Birth. "We love our place of worship. My son goes to school here. We do everything here."

Long became one of the country's most powerful independent church leaders over the last 20 years, turning a congregation of 150 into a 25,000-member powerhouse with a \$50 million cathedral

and a roster of parishioners that includes athletes, entertainers and politicians. And there was almost no sign Sunday that his flock wanted to turn him away.

It is unclear whether Long faces any risk of being removed by his church's board, but the allegations at the very least guarantee months of scrutiny as the lawsuits move forward.

Long is a father of four who has been an outspoken opponent of gay marriage and whose church has counseled gay members to become straight.

Two of the men who filed lawsuits say Long groomed them for sexual relationships when they were enrolled in the church's LongFellows Youth Academy, a program that taught teens about sexual and financial discipline. Two other young men — one of whom attended a satellite church in Charlotte, N.C. — made similar claims.

The men say they were 17 or 18 when the relationships began. Federal and state authorities have declined to investigate because Georgia's age of consent is 16.

"I've been accused. I'm under attack. I want you to know, as I said earlier, I am not a perfect man," Long said. "But this thing, I'm going to fight."

Long did not address the allegations directly but spoke at length about enduring painful times. He used the word "painful" nearly 20 times. The term "difficult" came up seven times.



Bishop Eddie Long, left, embraces a friend, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010, at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. Long, the pastor of a Georgia megachurch accused of luring young men into sexual relationships, has told his congregation of thousands that all people must face painful and distasteful situations.

(AP Photo/John Amis, Pool)

"We are all subject to face distasteful and painful situations. Bishop Long, Eddie Long — you can put your name in that blank — will have some bad situations," he said. "The righteous face painful situations with a determined expectancy. We are not exempt from pain, but (God) promises to deliver us out of our pain."

Long addressed the media briefly during a news conference between services, but media access to the services themselves was tightly controlled. Reporters were required to check in with church officials and were led to a separate part of the church to view the service. The media was also told not to interview church members inside the sanctuary or on church property.

After Long's remarks during the 8 a.m. service, an Associated

Press reporter was escorted out of the sanctuary by church officials who said the press were not allowed in the sanctuary during worship.

Members clapped and swayed in their seats as the first service began, with several people with microphones singing on stage. Later in the service, hundreds began dancing and chanting, "Jesus, Jesus." A small group of young people held Apple iPads high over their heads, with the screens scrolling white letters against a black background reading, "It's time to praise him."

As Long entered the cathedral, a group of people shouted, "We love you bishop!"

"I love you, New Birth," Long replied.

"I'm not leaving you if you don't leave me." □



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Obama presses for longer school years



U.S. President Barack Obama addresses the 65th United Nations General Assembly at the U.N. headquarters in New York, September 23, 2010.

By ERICA WERNER,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Barely into the new school year, President Barack Obama issued a tough-love message to students and teachers on Monday: Their year in the classroom should be longer, and poorly performing teachers should get out.

American students are falling behind their foreign counterparts, especially in math and science, and that's got to change, Obama said. Seeking to revive a sense of urgency that education reform may have lost amid the recession's focus on the economy, Obama declared that the future of the country is at stake.

"Whether jobs are created here, high-end jobs that support families and support the future of the American people, is going to depend on whether or not we can do something about these schools," the president said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

U.S. schools through high school offer an average of 180 instruction days per year, according to the Education Commission of the States, compared to an average of 197 days for lower grades and 196 days for upper grades in countries with the best student achievement levels, including Japan, South Korea, Germany and New Zealand.

"That month makes a difference," the president said. "It means that kids are losing a lot of what they learn during the school year during the summer. It's especially severe for poorer kids who may not see as many books in the house during the summers, aren't getting as many educational opportunities."

Obama said teachers and their profession should be more highly honored — as in China and some other countries, he said — and he said he wanted to work with the teachers' unions. But he also said that unions should not defend a status quo in which one-third of children are dropping out.

He challenged them not to be resistant to change.

And the president endorsed the firing of teachers who, once given the chance and the help to improve, are still falling short.

"We have got to identify teachers who are doing well. Teachers who are not doing well, we have got to give them the support and the training to do well. And if some teachers aren't doing a good job, they've got to go," Obama said.

They're goals the president has articulated in the past, but his ability to see them realized is

limited. States set the minimum length of school years, and although there's experimentation in some places, there's not been wholesale change since Obama issued the same challenge for more classroom time at the start of the past school year.

One issue is money, and although the president said that lengthening school years would be "money well spent," that doesn't mean cash-strapped states and districts can afford it.

"It comes down to the old bugaboo, resources. It costs money to keep kids in school," said Mayor Scott Smith of Mesa, Ariz. "Everyone believes we can achieve greater things if we have a longer school year. The question is how do you pay for it?"

One model is Massachusetts, where the state issues grants to districts that set out clear plans on how they would use the money to constructively lengthen instructional class time, said Kathy Christie, chief of staff at the Education Commission of the States. Obama's Education Department already is using competitions among states for curriculum grant money through its "Race to the Top" initiative. "The federal carrots of additional money would help more states do it or schools do it in states where they don't have a state grant process," Christie said.

But the federal budget is hard-up, too. And while many educators believe students would benefit from more quality learning time, the idea is not universally popular.

In Kansas, sporadic efforts by local districts to extend the school year at even a few schools have been met by parental resistance, said state education commissioner Diane DeBacker.

"It's been tried," she said, describing one instance of a Topeka-area elementary school that scrapped year-round schooling after just one year. "The community was just not ready for kids to be in school all summer long. Kids wanted to go swimming. Their families wanted to go on vacation."

Teachers' unions say they're open to the discussion of longer classroom time, but they also say that pay needs to be part of the conversation. As for Obama's call for ousting underperforming teachers, National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel said unions weren't the main stumbling block there, as many education reformers assert.

"No one wants an incompetent teacher in the classroom," Van Roekel said. "It's in the hiring, and in those first three to five years no teacher has the right to due process." □

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Man kills wife, stepkids, self; spares own kids



Medical examiners remove a body from a crime scene Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 after an overnight murder-suicide that has left six people dead, four of them children ages 10 to 15, in a Riviera Beach, Fla. A South Florida man spared his two biological children when he fatally shot his estranged wife and four stepchildren early Monday before turning the gun on himself, police said.

(AP Photo/Steve Mitchell)

By MATT SEDENSKY
KELLI KENNEDY,

Associated Press Writers

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. — A man shot and killed his estranged wife and four of his stepchildren and then killed himself early Monday, but he spared his two biological children, police said.

Seven children were inside the home when Patrick Dell, 41, shot Natasha Whyte-Dell, 36, and her four children, who were all pronounced dead at the scene. A 15-year-old at

the home was recovering at the hospital. Dell's biological children, ages 1 and 3, were with relatives.

Dell shot the family with a handgun. Neighbors said he was kicked out of a club Sunday night because he was drunk and making threats. It was unclear if the threats were directed at his family.

Police said there was a restraining order against Dell, who was in the midst of a divorce from his wife. He had gone after his wife with a knife

in December, telling her "you will be going to the morgue," police said.

Dell had slashed the woman's tires and carved an "X" in the home's driveway, and Whyte-Dell had locked herself in a neighbor's house until Dell left. Despite the restraining order, family friend Lydia Smith said Dell followed his wife everywhere and was jealous and possessive. She said Whyte-Dell thought her husband would one day change his aggressive behavior.

Chief Clarence Williams said authorities would not comment on a motive.

A police officer was checking a suspicious vehicle around 2 a.m. when he heard what sounded like muffled gun shots, Riviera Beach Police spokeswoman Rose Anne Brown said. When officers approached the home, Dell went outside and shot himself, she said.

Inside the home, officers found the bodies of the woman and four children identified as 10-year-old Daniel Barnett; 11-year-old Javon Nelson; 13-year-old Diane Barnett; and 14-year-old Bryan Barnett.

Neighbor Keisha Gordon said

she was with Dell at a club late Sunday night when he was asked to leave because he was drunk and causing trouble. Dell didn't go out a lot, but he did have a temper, she said.

"He was talking about chopping up somebody," 30-year-old Gordon said, standing across the street from the yellow house with the green trim now cordoned off by police tape.

They left the club and continued partying at a nearby park, where Dell was also asked to leave, she said.

"He always felt like people was against him," she said.

Dora Pouncey said her children were playing with the victims earlier Sunday. When her son came home, he said Dell and the two oldest boys had been arguing on the front lawn, but she didn't know why.

"I don't care what it was. He didn't have to come and take it out on that family," Pouncey said.

LaShara Fulwood said she hadn't seen Dell's car in the neighborhood in more than a month. But when he did come by "he would park his car in the alley," instead of parking near the house where the

family had lived for about a year.

Neighbors said the house was a popular hangout for kids in the area because they had a basketball hoop in the driveway and lived across the street from a park.

"The kid didn't really do nothing. They was just kids," 11-year-old David Hobley said as he waited for the school bus near the crime scene. He said the Barnett kids liked to rollerblade and play basketball.

The shootings occurred in a run-down neighborhood near a small brick church.

Jeanette Walker, a 56-year-old hairstylist who lives nearby, said she was awakened by gunfire, which is not an uncommon sound in the neighborhood.

"They over there shooting at each other again," she remembered thinking. "I didn't pay any attention because I didn't hear no sirens," she said. Walker said there have been several shootings in the area since she moved there about three years ago. It wasn't until she turned on the morning news that she learned of the deaths. □

Flood-damaged levee holds in central Wisconsin

By TODD RICHMOND,
Associated Press Writer

PORTAGE, Wis. — Dozens of residents opted to stay in their flood-stranded homes in central Wisconsin Monday, even as a nearby levee weakened by recent heavy rain barely held.

Columbia County Emergency Management director Pat Beghin said the levee on the Wisconsin River had deteriorated in the Town of Caledonia, just west of Portage, after recent thunderstorms bloated the waterway.

If the levee breaks it could destroy an already flooded access road to the town's Blackhawk Park neighborhood, Beghin said. Some 75 of 300 area residents have decided to stay in their homes, he said.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources engineers were inspecting the 14-mile levee system, which includes some dikes built mainly of sand in the 1890s.

DNR spokesman Greg Matthews said water is bubbling out of some portions of the levee. Emergency workers have sandbagged those areas, but some saturated portions of the levy system could collapse, Matthews said.

"The entire levy continues to degrade," he said, adding that DNR workers are repairing what they can.

The river overflowed its banks into low-lying areas of Portage, a city of about 10,000 some 40 miles north of Madison. Some residents ventured to the water's edge to watch the river

race by. Staring at the churning water, Shawn Schweitzer, 39, of Portage, said that usually at this time of the year the water is so low you can nearly drive across the river bottom.

"Now it would be bye, bye," referring to the floating debris. "I've never seen it move this fast," Schweitzer said.

Down the street, Linda Levaggi, 47, a Walmart employee, sat on a bench near the river drawing the swift water on her sketch pad. Levaggi said she wasn't worried about her home because she lives on high ground, but that has never seen the river so high.

"It is a concern," she said.

In Blackhawk Park, Kevin and Lindsay Remus chose to bundle their 17-month-old daughter, Amanda, and leave Sunday.



Flood waters surrounding a farm near Renner, S.D., are shown in this aerial photograph from Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010. Dozens of homes flooded after the Big Sioux River overflowed.

(AP Photo/Dirk Lammers)

Kevin Remus told the Portage Daily Register they decided to leave because the road could soon become impassible. The family went to the American Red Cross reception center at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Portage. Beghin says authorities are monitoring other towns along the river where minor flooding has occurred.

National Weather Service hydrologist Bryan Hahn says

the Wisconsin River reached a record level of 20.59 feet Monday at 6 a.m. That breaks a previous record of 20.50 set back in 1938.

The river was expected to hold steady through Tuesday, Hahn said, then slowly decline over the next seven days. Forecasters expect the weather to remain dry in the area for the rest of the week, although a flood warning remains in effect in Columbia County. □

Kosovo president resigns after court ruling

NEBI QENA,

Associated Press Writer

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)

— Kosovo's president resigned Monday after the Constitutional Court found that he violated the country's constitution by holding office and the leadership of his party simultaneously.

Fatmir Sejdiu said his decision was taken to "respect to the institutions and the decisions taken by them." He said he did not feel he violated the constitution but the court "thought otherwise."

"I will respect that," Sejdiu said. "It is in the interest of the Kosovo and its citizen."

The speaker of the parliament, Jakup Krasniqi will temporarily perform the president's duties.

Sejdiu, 59, is the head of the Democratic League of Kosovo, the party of iconic late pacifist President Ibrahim Rugova, that is part of the ruling coalition. He is Kosovo's first president since the territory seceded from Serbia in 2008, despite strong objections from Belgrade.

His resignation brings into

question the coalition deal with the party of the Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, a former rebel leader, whose Democratic Party of Kosovo is the largest force in the country's 120-seat Parliament.

Together, the coalition holds a comfortable governing majority, but Sejdiu has come under pressure from within his party to break ranks with Thaci. Thaci hailed Sejdiu's resignation and said that "everyone has an obligation to respect" the country's constitution.

If Thaci's party approves a presidential candidate presented by the LDK, the coalition could hold. But, if no deal is reached the split could force Kosovo into its first general elections since declaring independence from Serbia.

Fearing a political fallout, Peter Feith, the head of the international mission in Kosovo that oversees the work of the country's institutions, called on political leaders to "show leadership in the national interest and ensure a smooth transition of the



Kosovo's President Fatmir Sejdiu gestures moments after he announced his resignation from his post on Monday, Sept. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

presidency."

The court's decision is a landmark ruling for Kosovo's justice system, which is often criticized by international monitors of being influenced by corrupt officials and organized crime.

Three of the nine members

of the court are international judges appointed by the European Court of Human Rights and Feith. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, in cooperation with the United State and major European countries. The EU and United States, retain

some oversight roles over the country's affairs.

NATO wrestled Kosovo out of Serbia's control in 1999 after it bombed Serb forces for 78 days in a bid to stop their brutal crackdown on independence-minded majority ethnic Albanians. □

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Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

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Palestinians wait on decision to quit Mideast peace talks

AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian president said Monday he would wait at least a week before deciding whether to quit Mideast peace talks, giving U.S. mediators precious time to broker a compromise after Israel refused to extend its 10-month moratorium on new West Bank settlement construction.

President Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the newly launched negotiations if Israel resumes building in the settlements. But with the stakes so high, Abbas said during a visit to Paris that he would not make any hasty decisions. He said he would consult with the Palestinian leadership before discussing the matter with representatives of the 22-member Arab League next Monday.

“We will not have any quick reactions,” he said at a news conference standing beside French President Nicolas Sarkozy. “After this chain of meetings, we will be able to put out a position that clarifies the Palestinian and Arab opinion on this issue now that Israel has refused to freeze settlements.”

A senior Palestinian official said the Palestine Liberation Organization’s 18-member decision making body would

meet Wednesday or Thursday to determine how to proceed. He was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing internal Palestinian deliberations.

The construction restrictions that the Israeli government ordered expired at midnight Sunday with no sign Israel was heeding U.S. and Palestinian pressure to keep the curbs in place.

That threw the peace talks, which only restarted three weeks ago, into doubt. But the Americans said they were still working with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to find a formula that would keep the negotiations alive.

Abbas on Monday urged Israel to extend the settlement slowdown for three or four more months to allow for a discussion of “fundamental issues” in negotiations.

In Cairo, an Arab League official said Arab foreign ministers were expected to endorse whatever position Abbas took. He spoke on condition of anonymity because no decision had been made. Immediately after the restrictions expired at midnight, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appealed to Abbas to keep negotiating.

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Silvan Shalom appealed to the Palestinians to keep talking.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, unseen, delivers a speech during a meeting at the Elysee Palace Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 in Paris. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that Israel must choose between peace or settlements as Israel’s 10-month settlement construction slowdown expired.

Associated Press

“I think if they continue to negotiate with us, we can finally reach an agreement,” he said, expressing regret that the talks did not resume earlier in the 10-month settlement slowdown period.

In Washington, the State Department said envoy George Mitchell would return to the region on Tuesday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders — presumably part of the effort to find a compromise formula over the settlement issue.

Jewish settlers in the West Bank jubilantly marked the end of the construction curbs on Sunday, sending thousands of blue and white balloons — the colors of the Israeli flag — into the air and breaking ground on a new kindergarten.

They vowed to build thousands of new homes.

On Monday, there was only a smattering of construction in different settlements across the West Bank.

In Adam, north of Jerusalem, contractors surveyed building plans for new housing as a bulldozer cleared away earth. Another patch of land was prepared by a lone bulldozer in Karmei Tzur, in the southern West Bank, while four construction vehicles worked on leveling a rock and shrub covered plot in Ariel, a large settlement in the northern West Bank, to make the way for 100 homes planned in the area.

Settler leaders acknowledged construction activity would be minimal in the coming

months, in part because banks and developers are reluctant to commit to new projects out of fear that building will be stopped again.

Palestinians regard settlements as a major obstacle to peace because the construction is on land they claim for part of their future state. Some 300,000 Israeli settlers live in communities scattered across the West Bank, in addition to 180,000 Jewish Israelis living in east Jerusalem, the area of the holy city claimed by the Palestinians as their capital.

Israeli defense officials said Defense Minister Ehud Barak has floated a proposal under which any future construction — even projects with all the necessary permits — would need his personal approval. □



In this Feb. 2, 2009 file photo, Colombia’s senator Piedad Cordoba, center, talks to media members during a press conference in Villavicencio, Colombia.

Associated Press

Colombian Sen. Cordoba kicked out of Congress

FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia’s inspector general ousted an outspoken opposition senator Monday, barring her from public service for 18 years for allegedly “promoting and collaborating” with Latin America’s last remaining rebel army.

Sen. Piedad Cordoba gained international notice by brokering the release of more than a dozen hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

A flamboyant Afro-Colombian known for her trademark turban, Cordoba has been a polarizing force in domestic politics and is a close ally of Venezuela’s leftist

president, Hugo Chavez.

Cordoba, 55, has not been charged with any crime.

But Inspector General Alejandro Ordonez is constitutionally empowered to dismiss her — and any other member of Congress — by virtue of his jurisdiction over nearly all public servants save the president and top judges.

Cordoba, who has been in the Senate since 1994 and last year was mentioned as a possible Nobel Peace Prize candidate, did not answer telephone messages left by The Associated Press.

But in a Twitter message, Cordoba thanked supporters for “the innumerable expressions of affection” and said she was meeting with her lawyers. “We continue

forward,” she added.

Her attorney, Ciro Quiroz, said he would immediately challenge Ordonez’s ruling but acknowledged he lacks the option of appealing to a higher authority. Cordoba could, as an option, sue Ordonez before the Constitutional Court.

Leftist Rep. Ivan Cepeda, a close friend of Cordoba, called the decision unjust and said Ordonez has long “demonstrated public hostility to Cordoba’s work.”

Her firing comes less than a week after the FARC’s military mastermind and No. 2 leader, Jorge Briceno, was killed in a bombing raid in the country’s south. President Juan Manuel Santos on Sunday called the death “the beginning of the end” of the badly battered insurgency. □

North Korea promotes Kim son to general

KWANG-TAE KIM

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il promoted his youngest son to the rank of general in the Korean People's Army, the state news agency reported early Tuesday, the clearest signal yet that the 20-something is on track to succeed his father in ruling the impoverished country.

Kim issued an order handing six people — including son Kim Jong Un — the rank of general, the Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch. Also promoted was Kim Kyong Hui, the elder Kim's sister. It marks the first time that Kim Jong Un's name has appeared in official media.

The report came hours ahead of the start of the ruling Workers' Party meeting, the country's biggest political meeting in three decades, and amid intense speculation that the duo could be given key posts at the gathering.

The ailing 68-year-old Kim Jong Il took control of North Korea when his father, the North's founder Kim Il Sung, died of heart failure in 1994. He has reportedly groomed third son as his heir, and some experts have also said that Kim Kyong Hui might be tapped to oversee a transfer of power if the leader dies before the son is ready to take over.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell said in a conference call that Washington was "watching developments carefully" and was working to interpret the announcement's significance.

The question of who will take over from Kim Jong Il, who rules with absolute authority but is believed to suffer from a host of ailments, is important to regional security because of North Korea's active nuclear and missile programs, and regular threats it makes against rival South Korea — an important U.S.

ally.

"Kim Jong Un's promotion is the starting point for his formal succession to power," said Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

He said the North's "songun," or "military first" policy — in which priority is given to the armed forces — will play an important role in establishing the succession.

Kim Kyong Hui and her husband Jang Song Thaek — vice chairman of the all-powerful National Defense Commission — are likely to act as guardians for the young Kim during his rise to power.

Many delegates to the party meeting arrived in Pyongyang on Sunday by train and the city was festooned with flags and placards announcing the event, footage shot by broadcaster APTN showed. "Warm congratulations to the representatives meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea!" read one poster.

A South Korean newspaper reported Monday that the younger Kim was chosen as a military delegate to the conference.

The party's central committee then put out internal propaganda proclaiming him to be Kim Jong Il's sole successor, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said, citing a source in North Korea that it did not identify.

Still, some experts said Kim's son — who is thought to be in his mid- to late-20s — may not be ready to officially debut as a successor. So Kim Jong Il's 64-year-old sister might be designated to serve as a caretaker after Kim's death, Yuriko Koike, former Japanese defense minister and national security adviser, wrote in a syndicated column earlier this month.

Cheong Seong-chang, a senior fellow at the Sejong Institute think tank near Seoul, shared the view.

"There is a possibility that she could play the role of a coordinator to make sure



In this photo released by Korean Central News Agency via Korea News Service, delegates to the ruling Worker's Party meeting make their way upon arriving at Pyongyang station, North Korea, on Monday Sept. 27, 2010. North Korea holds its biggest political meeting in decades Tuesday, amid intense speculation that members of leader Kim Jong Il's family will assume key positions in the ruling party to solidify their rule for another generation.

Associated Press

the power succession goes smoothly," Cheong said.

Koike wrote that Kim Jong Il himself noted his sister's authority in the communist country in comments before the ruling party's Central Committee, saying "Kim Kyong Hui is myself, the words of Kim Kyong Hui are my words, and instructions issued by Kim Kyong Hui are my instructions."

Koike, now a top official in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, did not clarify in her column how she knew of these comments.

Kim Kyong Hui, who heads the North Korean ruling party's light industry department, is four years younger than her only biological sibling. Biographical information about her is extremely scarce. But Kim Jong Il's former sushi chef wrote in a 2003 memoir that Kim Kyong Hui is full of charm when it comes to her brother.

"At banquets, she would sit next to Kim Jong Il and kept on saying, 'brother, brother!'" Kenji Fujimoto

said. "She very much took after her brother."

A small photo in a book published by South Korea's Unification Ministry shows Kim Kyong Hui with a chubby, bespectacled face and wavy, shoulder-length hair. Footage aired last year by Pyongyang's state television showed her dressed in a light gray parka similar to her brother's while she stood at his side during an inspection trip to a farm.

Koike wrote that Kim Kyong Hui was believed to have a fierce personality, adding that Kim Jong Il is quoted as saying, "When my sister turns violent, no one can stop her. Even I can do nothing." Jang Sung-min, a former South Korean lawmaker who was involved in foreign affairs, also said Kim Kyong Hui had a special relationship with her brother, citing an unidentified source in Beijing who he says is privy to North Korea affairs.

"Kim Kyong Hui is the only person in the North who can speak frankly to Kim Jong Il

and can even be emotional in front of him," said Jang, who authored a book on Kim Jong Il.

Her husband, Jang Song Thaek, was demoted in early 2004 in what analysts believed was a warning from Kim Jong Il against gaining too much influence. But he has since made a political comeback in a rehabilitation engineered by his wife, the former lawmaker said.

There was a big increase in the couple's appearances in KCNA in recent years.

"Kim Kyong Hui's frequent appearances in her brother's field trips showed that she is a key person who can play a role in the power succession," said Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"Kim Kyong Hui's frequent appearances in her brother's field trips showed that she is a key person who can play a role in the power succession," said Kim Yong-hyun, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Nigeria: Flood ruins crops as food remains scarce

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press Writer

GUDINCHIN, Nigeria (AP)

—After water nearly overtook his village in northern Nigeria, Ali Gudinchin jumped into the rushing flood with a knife, cutting away ears of corn from stalks barely rising above the muddy surface.

He ended up with only three sacks worth of food, compared to the 50-odd bags of grains and vegetables he typically grows during the arid region's brief fertile season.

"The insects were biting me as I cut," said Gudinchin, a 50-year-old man who uses his village's name as his surname, which is customary. "It was pain in addition to the pain of losing the crop."

Flood waters that rushed through his home in rural Jigawa state now cover about 34 square miles of farmland there. As the bright sun begins to slowly dry the fields, all the farmers have are ruined stalks and dying plants — the latest strain on food in a region where other nearby countries face serious shortages.

The floods have come at the worst possible time — just before harvest — when it is too late for farmers to replant their fields of millet, sorghum and cowpea, according to the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

In northern Nigeria, unusually heavy seasonal rains sent water surging through overflowing rivers. A dam failed in the northern state of Sokoto, flooding out rural pasturelands there and killing about 40 people, according to local media reports.

In Jigawa, local officials blame the inundation on officials opening two dams at reservoirs in neighboring Kano state. Typically, the water released yearly from the dams flows into farm fields across the region known as the Sahel, a band of semi-arid land stretching across Africa south of the Sahara. The waters irrigated the crops of Jigawa, a state home to more than 4 million people.

This time, a huge wave of water from the reservoirs raced through already saturated stream and creeks beds, quickly topping over Jigawa state's simple earthen levees, said Umar Kyari, a spokesman for Gov. Sule Lamido.

About 2 million people — about half of the state's population — have been displaced or affected by the flooding that began two weeks ago, he said. The village of Gudinchin — home to a few hundred



Local residents use calabash gourds as flotation devices as they swim across flooded farmland in Gudinchin village, near Dutse in northern Nigeria, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. Farmers in northern Nigeria said Monday they feared their crops were destroyed in weekend floods that started when two swollen dams overflowed and displaced 2 million people. In the village of Gudinchin, rice and corn stalks poked above a fast-moving river that had washed over the fields. A few houses in the village peered above the water, and people had constructed a makeshift embankment out of the remains of mud houses that had washed away.

Associated Press

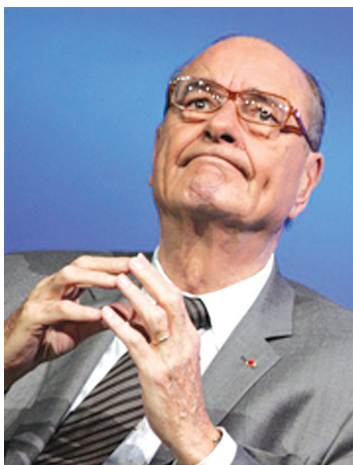
people once surrounded by fields of tomatoes, corn, rice and millet — is now cut off from the rest of Jigawa, an island in the midst of murky, fast-moving water ripe with unprocessed sewage. Besides swimming, the only way across comes from two, low-riding wooden canoes donated

by the government.

There, the dirt-walled granary quickly became a pile of muddy debris when the waters rushed in one night. Villagers used its walls to build an earthen levee against the rushing water. The millet able to be eaten can now be lifted up in only two handfuls.

Garba Gudinchin, 55, said he and others live in fear that their dam won't hold long enough to allow the sun to burn away the remaining water. But beyond that, nearly all the village's crops now sit in ruin.

"I cannot tell you the figure because it is big," he said in the local Hausa language. □



In this June 9, 2008 file photo taken in Paris, former French President Jacques Chirac.

Associated Press

JAMEY KEATEN,

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — The city of Paris pulled out of a long-standing corruption case against former French President Jacques Chirac on Monday, after he and his conservative political party agreed to pay €2.2 million (\$2.95 million) in losses

Paris approves deal with former President Chirac

sustained by the city because of a party financing scandal while he was mayor.

Chirac, 77, is facing trial on charges of embezzlement and breach of trust stemming from the scandal dating back to his 1977-1995 tenure as Paris mayor. The case marks the first time that a former leader of modern France has been forced to stand trial.

The deal doesn't close the case, but it will remove the last plaintiff other than the state, and could take some of the courtroom pressure off Chirac when he goes to trial in late 2010 or early 2011.

The Paris city council voted 147 to 13 with one abstention to drop the city's complaint against Chirac after he and his conservative Union for a Popular Movement agreed to compensate the city's losses at

the time.

The €2.2 million payback amounts to the salaries of 21 people hired by City Hall in what investigators have called a "fake jobs" scheme while he was mayor. The jobs were allegedly meant to help finance his conservative party, the Rally for the Republic, which was later replaced by the Union for a Popular Movement, or UMP.

"This agreement is good for the city of Paris, good for Mr. Chirac, and good on every level," Chirac's lawyer, Jean Veil, told The Associated Press. The city had been a civil party to the state's case against Chirac. If convicted, the former president could be jailed for up to 10 years and fined €150,000 (\$200,000). Many observers say a prison term is highly unlikely. A

Paris court on Oct. 1 will set a trial date, likely in November or February.

Chirac has denied wrongdoing and has argued that France long had no judicial rules laying out a framework for party financing. He's also noted that the government passed several laws from 1988 to 1995 as it tried to clarify the rules.

Veil said the former president will pay €500,000 in the deal, while the party will pay the rest. Chirac had to take out a bank loan to pay his share, he said. Bertrand Delanoe, a Socialist who is the current Paris mayor, insisted that there was no back-room negotiation with the UMP over the Chirac deal, and that party allegiances weren't an issue in the case.

"When it comes to matters of morals, ethics and justice, you must have principles, and

that's what's happening when it comes to these reparations," Delanoe told reporters after the vote.

While Chirac was president from 1995 to 2007, investigating judges went after him in corruption scandals — but he used his presidential immunity to keep them at arm's length. After he left office, the dockets were reopened.

Two months after leaving the presidency, Chirac was questioned in an investigation of the case. An investigator turned up a 1993 letter in which Chirac had requested a raise for a secretary who was paid by City Hall, but who actually worked at party headquarters.

Chirac now devotes much of his time to a charitable organization, La Fondation Chirac. □



Nibbling, sipping and savoring...

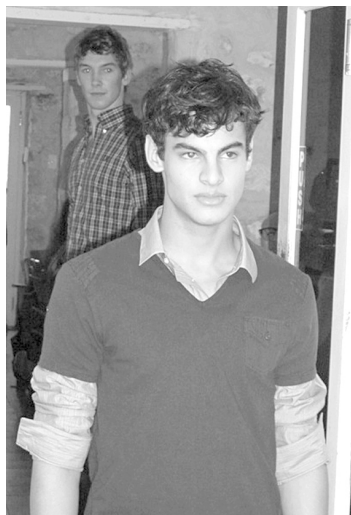
Fabulous show at De Suikertuin by local designer Ronchi de Cuba



ORANJESTAD - Historic mansion De Suikertuin sparkled in all its glory last Sunday afternoon, when it was the venue for a special, highly fashionable High Tea. Local designer Ronchi de Cuba and seventeen of his gorgeous models delighted the guests with superb creations. Having stepped away from his customary prints, Ronchi showed off his considerable talent with a more unicolor, exciting line, which is very wearable for all sizes and shapes. While guests nibbled, sipped and savored, the models paraded around.

De Suikertuin's staff presented a pastrami wrap, a

Greek quesadilla, chocolate pie, Japanese nori and egg, a NY Club tortilla, carrot cake, chicken pie, feta tapenade with a ginger dip and pan bollo before finishing with a finale of salmon quiche, a finger sandwich and scones with clotted cream and jelly. The various courses were served with changing tea blends: chamomile, green tea, peppermint and rooibos. Although a rain shower threatened to spoil the afternoon, the clouds opened up to a blue sky and after a short delay, the models shook off the rain drops and strutted their stuff. Each of them truly stunning in their own way, they did a remarkable job.



Especially the sneak peek of the holiday line was amazing, but the more informal wear got some very favorable comments as well.

This was a wonderful event at De Suikertuin; one which certainly deserves a repetition.

For those who are interested in the men's and ladies' wear shown: Ronchi de Cuba's store Trash will re-open after renovations on October 1st. On October 15 one of his new, European men's wear lines will be available. □







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Players Choice Tours hosts a Familiarization Trip



PALM BEACH -- Guy Gemore, CEO of Players Choice Tours, INC., from Yonkers, NY, hosted a familiarization trip, showing about 40 top-producing agents from NY and NJ around the island as his guests.

During the group's stay Player Choice Tours also recognized a number of the visiting guests, thanking them for their hard work on behalf of the island of Aruba. The awards and the recognitions were presented during a dinner party at Laguna restaurant, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

In turn, the visiting travel agents recognized resort General Manager Rob Smith for working with them for the past 10 years in differing capacities, helping their clients enjoy Aruba, to the utmost.

The party featured a gourmet dinner of Dover Sole Roulade and Beef Wellington, over cocktails and wines, to the music of guitarist Ernesto Ferro.

The agents also enjoyed Gemore's hospitality at a roof top cocktail party in the resort's 8th floor penthouse



serving Seafood Ceviche free flowing libations at Shooters, Lobster Canapes, sunset. Pictured here some Tex Mex Pinwheels, and unforgettable moments of the Tomato Bruschetta over group's visit on the island. □





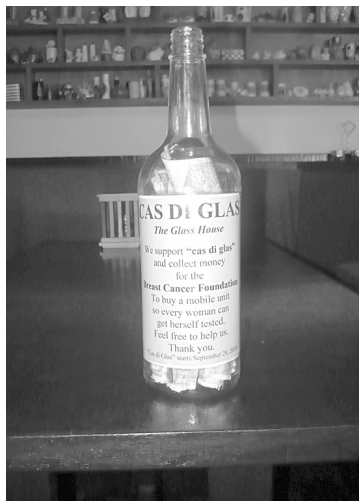
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Fantastic line-up for four spectacular evenings at Cas di Glas fundraising



ORANJESTAD - Four evenings, filled to the brim with bands, dj's, dancers and entertainment are coming! Starting on Wednesday, September 29, the opening night of the exciting House of Glass fundraising event at CILO City Lounge downtown, the line-up of artists is incredible. The local and international support of the music world for the acquisition of a mobile breast cancer screening unit, the goal for the fundraiser called Cas di Glas, is amazing. Here follows

the schedule:

The official Cas di Glas opening takes place at 18.00 hrs, when Prime Minister Mike Eman shuts dj's Siomara, Jean Carlo and dj 101 into their glass dwelling. Andrea Grosso and a dj are then playing. Their act is followed by the Popcorn Dancers (6.30 - 7), Lavahouse (7.30 - 8). Accoustic Souls (8 - 9) and the terrific reunion after 28 years (!) of Dedhalavie (9-10). After that it is showtime for Mystical Connection and the Zetaband. Roberto Geerman is the MC on Wednesday. Thursday, September 30, looks most promising as well, with Sazon Cubano playing from 5.30-6.30, followed by a dance demonstration by Pachanga (6.30-7). The PM Band is on from 7.30 until 8.30; after that Grupo Di EMG performs from 8.30-9. From 9 to 10 the Jefferson Paris Band can be seen live on stage, followed by BMW (10-11) and Privé (11-11.45). MC of the evening is Roberto Geerman once again.

The Popcorn Dancers are back on Friday with modern dance from 6.30 to 7; their act is followed by Idyl Mist (7-8) and the Belgian classical formation, the sensational Rockenbach (8-9). Banda Esquema (9-10), Basic One & Biggy Boy (10-11) and DJ Quality (11-12) make Friday a super night. Emcees of the three next nights are courtesy of popular local radio station Magic FM.

Saturday is Kids Day at Cas di Glas: there is a jumping castle, games and fun for everyone, so all the kids of Aruba should come to the Renaissance Marketplace (10-4). From 10-11 there is Zumba on stage, so kids and adults can join in. At 4 pm it's showtime, this time the Pachanga Kids are on (4-5), showing off what they have learned. After that the line-up is as follows: Impak (5-6), Juan Carlo Lucés (6-7), Tsunami (7-8), Zissles (8-9), Diviana (9-10), Mulato (10-11) and Roots n Riddem (11-12). Comedian Vale Croes is on stand-by every

day, ready to sing a song, he has announced.

Sunday starts off well with a Zumba class (10-11); a 15-minute Tai Chi demonstration is held from 1-1.15. The Arion Wine Company giveaway happening starts at 3, followed by their donation. The Renaissance prize is raffled between 3-3.30. At 4.30 a dj of Swingmasterz is playing his music; Honeypot takes over from him at 5. From 5 to 5.30 the Renaissance Marketplace is going to tremble when Aruba Salsa let loose. After the three dj's inside the Cas di Glas are released (at 6 pm) Next Level

will play. The announcement of the total amount for the mobile breast cancer screening unit will be around 6.30 pm. After that Youth Extreme (7-8), Transformerz (8-8.30), Time Bandits (8.30-9), reggae sensation Lincoln Ward (9-10), Scarlet (10-11) and Roger Peterson with his Intwine (11-12).

With so much music, talent and enthusiasm surrounding the event, the Cas di Glas team hopes to be able to receive enough donations so that their goal can be met. Please donate to this great cause and come and enjoy the Cas di Glas event. □



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Cas di Glas to be aired live on Channel 49

ORANJESTAD - Live all the excitement of "Cas di Glas" on live television by watching iTV Channel 49 of local cable starting wednesday! Starting on wednesday at 6 o'clock in the afternoon the doors of the "Cas di Glas" / The Glass house will be closed with 3 local media personalities locked in for 5 days. The 3 media personalities will try to raise as much funds as they

can during the upcoming days. The funds will be destined for the Konigin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds. All the events inside and around the "Cas di Glas" will be televised during 24 hours a day during the 5 days on iTV Channel 49 on Cable TV. The live broadcast will start on wednesday afternoon at the official start of the event and will end on Sunday at the closing. Channel 49 is accesible for all cable tv subscribers in the basic package. "For iTV it is an honor to be part of an organization as "Cas di Glas. Their cause is a very admirable one and for this reason we decided to dedicate 24 hours for 5 days of airtime to "Cas di Glas". By this means Aruba can live all the excitement from the comfort of their home or work" Mark Benson Denz of Channel 49 commented. The public of Aruba is invited to also witness this event in person in front of Cilo at The Renaissance Marketplace Parkinglot but during the moments that they can not be present they can follow it via Channel 49. For viewers that only have access to internet they can view it via 24ora.com and coolaruba.com. During every afternoon and nights there will be live performances given by local and international talents. I.e Intwine, Mulato, Basic One. Iddylmist and many more from around the globe. For more information regarding the event itself please visit www.casdiglas.com

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AMC Unicon Beach Tennis Event a hit!



EAGLE BEACH - Last Sunday BTA and AMC Unicon organized the 8th ranking tournament of the year. It rained almost for a week, the tournament started with some thunder and lightning than the sky turned familiar Aruba blue with sunshine! The pro men final was a real

Donkey Sanctuary Aruba Family Day Postponement



STA LUCIA - Family Day, scheduled for Sunday, October 3rd, at the Donkey Sanctuary in Sta. Lucia, has been postponed. This postponement has been due to the ongoing rain and forecast for more rain. The contest to name the baby born on August 30th is still going on. You can go to the Sanctuary to register, register on-line at the Sanctuary website www.arubandonkey.org or on Facebook. Please call 593-2933 for more information. □

thriller, decided by a tie breaker 8-6. Derrick Hernandez serving a 'bomber ace' to decide the match!

In Pro ladies it was Tina Escebedo/Jolanda Overbeek who won, taking the lead now in the overall standing. There were are a lot of 'new' players and especially the youth is coming up in huge numbers knocking on the door of the top players. That in combination with some tourist player made this event suitable for 'every body'! BTA(Beach Tennis Aruba) is also proud to be officially part of the ITF world tour with their International tournament in November this year! Till that time the local players have plenty time to prepare and train for this \$ 10000.- event sponsored by Marriott Stellaris casino.

Together with the US Open for Beach Tennis the Aruba tournament is rated G1 which means it's got the highest ranking among Beach Tennis tournaments in the world! For more info and/or register go to : www.arubabeachtennis.com or call 5926421.

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ATA, AWA, Bacardi Mojito, Company 81, Deloitte, ISA, Island Temptation , Powerade & Marriott Stellaris casino. Results AMC Unicon Beach Tennis Event:

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- 2 Manon Hekman/Marry Pijl
- 3 Aalke Aardema/Jacqueline vd linde

3 Orietta Mansur/Oriana Mansur

Fun men:

- 1 Sander Bekius/ Liam Ramshorst
- 2 Ronald Aardema /Geert Steeghs
- 3 Bas van Oers + Sebastian Hofer

3 Bassie de Jong/Adriaan de Jong

Fun mix:

- 1 Bob Fulton/Robin Fulton
- 2 Tony de Jonge + Alinda Koppejan
- 3 Esther Doves /Jerome vd Spil

3 Leo Horsseleberg /Anouska vd Broek

Intermediate ladies:

- 1 Roos Poels /Marijn Kuhlmann
- 2 Iduna Nottelman/Jeanine Harthoorn
- 3 Dorilis Werleman /Sherrel Werleman
- 3 Liesje Seraus /Careen Jie Sam Foek

Intermediate men:

- 1 Frank Fie Sam Yoek/Emanuel Fie Sam Yoek
- 2 DJ Bekius/Theo de Kool
- 3 Menno Conijn + Louis
- 3 Alexander Drop/Bob Janse

Advanced ladies:

- 1 Mayrim Arends/Tina Faria
- 2 Trudi Claassen/Noortje Derksen
- 3 Barbara Bregita/Katja Odijk

Advanced men:

- 1 Patrick Boset/Wim Duyzer
- 2 JD Douglas /Adolfo Valvueno



3 Samer Hamawi/Sebastian Montoya

3 Michel Bogeivad/Sven Ellercamp

Advanced mix:

- 1 Maike van Paridon + Aat Hoek
- 2 Sascha Nieuwenhuis+ Patrick Chaos
- 3 Jenner Florez + Claudia Florez

3 Arjen Hoogendam/Mariska Hoogendam

Pro ladies:

1 Tina Escebedo + Jolanda

Overbeek

2 Michelle Marlenee/Natasja Rudolphus

3 Marieke Buuts / Claire Ros

3 Danielle van Staveren /Yvette Franssen

Pro men:

1 Bertrand Coulet/Derrick Hernandez

2 Aksel Imac /Sergio Fie Sam Yoek

3 Dennis Schoneveld /Cado de Lannoy

3 Michel de Jong/ Gijs de Rooij □



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Top Executives Win Sweepstakes



PALM BEACH – Gabriel Casey and Sayba Weijers were both rewarded for their exceptional performances by Finance Manager Grushenka Arends, who reports the two sales executives were included in an internal RCI sponsored sweepstake for an Ipod Touch. The RCI sweepstakes was launched in recognition of the chain's affiliate sales teams

contributions and was announced in RCI's eligible resort affiliates. Each week top sales people will be randomly selected to win an Ipod Touch, with the Grand Prize announced at an international Sales Appreciation Event, at the end of 80 weeks, for a resort vacation trip for two, says Christy Garrido, Director of Sales, Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. □



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The authentic local seafood restaurant.

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Tuesday, September 28, 2010



In a November 2000 photo, George Blanda poses for a photo in La Quinta, Calif. Blanda, who played longer than anyone in pro football history and racked up the most points in a career that spanned four decades, mostly with the Chicago Bears and Oakland Raiders, died Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. He was 83.

Associated Press

Raiders Hall of Fame QB George Blanda dies at 83

ALAMEDA, California (AP) — George Blanda, the seemingly ageless Hall of Fame quarterback and kicker whose 26-year NFL career was best remembered for a remarkable run of late-game theatrics with the Oakland Raiders, has died. He was 83.

The Raiders confirmed the death Monday and issued a statement saying “we are deeply saddened by the passing of the great George Blanda. George was a brave Raider and a close personal friend of Raiders owner Al Davis.”

Blanda retired a month shy of his 49th birthday before the 1976 season, playing longer than anyone else in pro football history. He spent 10 seasons with the Chicago Bears, part of one with the Baltimore Colts, seven with the Houston Oilers and his final nine with the Raiders.

Continued on Page B6



RYDER TIME AGAIN

In this handout image provided by Ryder Cup Europe, US golf captain Corey Pavin holding the Ryder Cup poses for photographers as he arrives at Cardiff Airport, Wales, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, prior to the start of the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament, that starts Friday Oct. 1 2010.

Associated Press

NFL Roundup

Edwards' long TD helps Jets beat Dolphins 31-23

MIAMI (AP) — Benched at the start because of a drunken-driving arrest, Braylon Edwards turned a short pass into a 67-yard touchdown in the third quarter as the Jets beat the Miami Dolphins 31-23 on Sunday.

Mark Sanchez threw three touchdown passes for the second week in a row, and the Jets forged a three-way tie atop the AFC East with the Dolphins and Patriots. All are 2-1.

Edwards was arrested in Manhattan around 5 a.m. Tuesday and apologized the next day. The Jets decided to suspend him for one quarter.

The Dolphins then drove 64 yards to the 5 with 34 seconds remaining, but Chad Henne's fourth-down pass was deflected by Eric Smith and intercepted in the end zone by Drew Coleman.

Falcons 27, Saints 24

At New Orleans, Matt Bryant did what Garrett Hartley could not, drilling a 46-yard field goal with 1:55 left in overtime to lift Atlanta past New Orleans.

The Saints appeared to have a thrilling victory in hand when Drew Brees drove New Orleans deep into Falcons territory to set up a 29-yard field goal in overtime. Instead, Hartley hooked the kick to the left for his third miss this season.

Matt Ryan passed for 228 yards and touchdowns of 13 yards to Tony Gonzalez and 22 yards to Roddy White to give the Falcons (2-1) their second straight win.

Cowboys 27, Texans 13

At Houston, Tony Romo threw two touchdown passes to Roy Williams, and Marion Barber ran for another score as Dallas got its first win.

The Cowboys' defense got its first three takeaways of the season and held Houston's top-ranked offense to 340 yards. DeMarcus Ware sacked Matt Schaub three times, and the Dallas secondary limited All-Pro receiver Andre Johnson to four catches for 64



New York Jets wide receiver Braylon Edwards (17) sits on the bench in the second quarter during an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in Miami, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

yards.

David Buehler kicked two field goals and the Cowboys (1-2) turned in a dominant performance after starting 0-2 for the first time since 2001.

The announced crowd was 71,456, a record for a Texans game at Reliant Stadium.

Steelers 38, Buccaneers 13

At Tampa, Florida, Charlie Batch threw for 186 yards and two long touchdowns to Mike Wallace in his first start in nearly three years, helping Pittsburgh remain unbeaten.

Wallace scored on catches of 46 and 41 yards during a stretch where Pittsburgh scored on four straight possessions to build a 28-6 halftime lead.

The Steelers improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2007, despite playing without Ben Roethlisberger, who's serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

Vikings 24, Lions 10

Continued on Page B8

Trophy in hand, Pavin tries to take Ryder Cup home

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NEWPORT, Wales (AP) —

A young woman working at the Celtic Manor this week did a double take when she saw Corey Pavin getting into a golf cart. She didn't realize he was the U.S. captain. What got her attention was what he was holding.

"Is that the Ryder Cup trophy?" she said excitedly before holding up her credential to show an image of the gold chalice.

Pavin and the American team own the real thing. The question is whether they go home with it.

After a night of travel on a charter flight out of Atlanta, the defending champions arrived in Wales for the Ryder Cup matches they will try to win on foreign soil for the first time since 1993.

Europe is considered the stronger team on paper with two major champions, Graeme McDowell and Martin Kaymer, and a 12-man side that has produced 17 victories this year, five of those on the PGA Tour. The perception of strength also is based on who didn't



In this handout image provided by Ryder Cup Europe, US golf captain Corey Pavin holding the Ryder Cup poses for photographers members of the US team as they arrive at Cardiff Airport, Wales, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, prior to the start of the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament, that starts Friday Oct. 1 2010.

Associated Press

Masters, but he has been in the top 10 only once in the last three months.

Even so, Pavin has reason to feel his U.S. team is ready to defend.

Jim Furyk won the Tour Championship on Sunday, making him the third U.S. team member to win a FedEx Cup playoff event. Matt Kuchar won The Barclays, while Dustin Johnson won the BMW Championship.

"I like the way Team USA is playing right now," Pavin said. "I think there's a lot of guys that have been playing well, and that's always a good thing. Any captain is going to want his players to be up on their game. But then again, anything can happen during a week of golf. I just would like my guys to be out there and be comfortable, relaxed, and get some good practice in the next couple of days."

They were plenty relaxed on the way over. It was the first time since at least 1997 the entire American team came over on the same plane. Some travelers and airport workers were stunned Sunday night to see Woods leaning against a wall having a casual conversation with Mickelson as the U.S. team, wives and caddies gathered outside one of the gates in the international concourse. Odds are Woods and Mickelson weren't talking fourballs strategies. That experiment of them playing together didn't work so well in the 2004 matches at Oakland Hills.

Montgomerie already has told his players their partners, and Pavin has given his players an indication of who might be playing, and when. He just wasn't about to reveal anything until the opening ceremony Thursday.

"I have a very good idea of what we're going to do," Pavin said. "We've talked about it quite a bit, and the

players have an idea of the direction that I'm going to go. But there's no reason for me to discuss it too much until I actually write the pairings down on paper and turn them in."

Some pairings could become clearer when the teams begin practicing on the Twenty Ten course at Celtic Manor, the first golf course specifically designed with a Ryder Cup in mind. Steve Stricker and Dustin Johnson took in a few holes of practice, Stricker dressed in a blue rain suit. The sky was gray and dreary, and rain was in the forecast for much of the week.

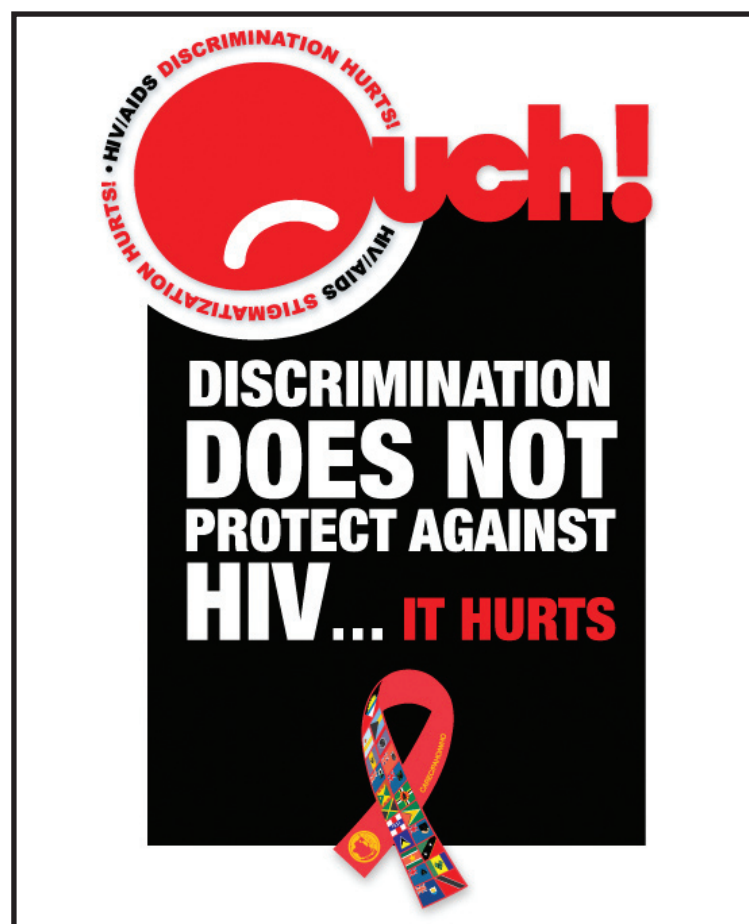
Celtic Manor otherwise looked ready to stage the biggest team event in golf. The grandstand behind the first tee was in the shape of an amphitheater, with towering bleachers behind the 18th green, and a stage already erected for the opening ceremony. Casual observers might not know if they were at a golf tournament or Woodstock.

It was an otherwise routine day, the big news that both captains have asked their players not to use Twitter or Facebook during the Ryder Cup. Stewart Cink and Ian Poulter each have more than a million followers.

Montgomerie doesn't tweet. More strange to him is not playing.

"Strange in many ways," Montgomerie said. "Biggest event in my golfing career and I've come here with no clubs. Quite weird, really. I stood on the first tee on Friday when I arrived. Had my own thoughts about ever playing in the Ryder Cup. And after this great honor and responsibility that this is, I intend to do my utmost to try to make the team in 2012."

The first order of business, however, is getting that gold trophy away from Pavin and the Americans. □



make the team — Justin Rose, Paul Casey and Sergio Garcia.

European captain Colin Montgomerie isn't buying into that.

"Yes, we might be favorites," he said. "But I don't see it as much as you guys might be putting this together. This will be very, very close and very competitive, as they always are." The Americans have the top two players in the world ranking, which in this case might be misleading. Tiger Woods has not won a tournament all year — he hasn't even come close — while dealing with an embarrassing scandal that cost him his marriage. Phil Mickelson won the

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Captains issue Twitter ban for Ryder Cup players

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — U.S. and European players have been banned from using Twitter and other social networking sites during the Ryder Cup.

U.S. captain Corey Pavin and European counterpart Colin Montgomerie said Monday there will be a blanket ban in place this week to keep players focused on the three-day competition, which begins on Friday at Celtic Manor. "We have decided as a whole to not tweet this week," Pavin said. "It can be a little bit distracting sometimes. I think it's important to focus on the Ryder Cup and playing the matches and just enjoying camaraderie with the team itself."

"But first thing a week from today, I'm sure tweeting will be all over the place," Montgomerie also told his players to avoid Twitter and other sites and "focus on the job at hand this week."

"We feel that tweeting and

Facebook and all of these social sites can get one's self into trouble," Montgomerie said. "On Monday, Oct. 4, yes, you'll find the team probably on social network sites."

But not until then."

Montgomerie said his decision was prompted by the controversy surrounding England cricketer Kevin Pietersen, who was fined earlier this month for making a profane comment on Twitter after discovering he had been dropped by his country for the first time.

"Kevin Pietersen's error changed my view as to that, yes," Montgomerie said.

U.S. player Rickie Fowler confirmed his team's Twitter ban, tweeting on Monday: "Guys I'm sorry to inform you but the news is true ... we will not be allowed to tweet while we are in Wales ... Cpt's orders!!"

Stewart Cink, who won the Open Championship in 2009, has more than 1 million followers on



European team captain Colin Montgomerie, right, and U.S. team captain Corey Pavin speak beside the Ryder Cup golf trophy during a news conference at Cardiff Airport in Cardiff, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. The U.S. team arrived in Wales on Monday for the Ryder Cup, which starts Friday at Celtic Manor.

Twitter.

"We're finally off to Wales!! Won't be tweeting until we get back. I guess I'll have to pass the down time actually reading or something," Cink tweeted before the U.S. team's charter flight from Atlanta to Cardiff.

U.S. team members Zach Johnson, Hunter Mahan and Bubba Watson also have active Twitter accounts.

Europe team member Ian Poulter has a large following on Twitter but was forced to apologize earlier this year for using an anti-Semitic

slur after a football match between north London rivals Tottenham and Arsenal, the team he supports.

Graeme McDowell, Rory McIlroy and Francesco Molinari are other members of the European team who use Twitter. □

Associated Press



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On eve of Heat camp, James takes center stage

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

CORAL GABLES, Florida (AP) — In one breath, LeBron James insisted that he's moved past the venom directed his way after he chose to join the Miami Heat. In the next, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP said all those naysayers out there are his fuel.

Which rings true?

Apparently, both.

"I don't want to keep harping about what people have said about me," James said. "But personally, I'm motivated by what has gone on this summer."

Music to the collective Heat ears, right there. Donning his new Heat home uniform and spending the afternoon flanked by fellow star teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, James began a new Miami chapter Monday, hours before his team was to fly north for training camp in Florida's Panhandle.

Since "The Decision," as it's known, James has been called a quitter by Cleveland owner and former boss Dan Gilbert, had his competitiveness questioned by the Orlando Magic, heard Dallas owner Mark Cuban say he made a



Miami Heat players, from left, Chris Bosh, LeBron James, and Dwyane Wade share a laugh during an interview as they participate in Media Day activities, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010 in Coral Gables, Fla. The Heat will begin NBA basketball training camp Tuesday at Hurlburt Field, a U.S. Air Force installation in Florida's Panhandle.

bad business deal, and found himself taking note of what was written and said by countless pundits.

It's all made James feel like he has something to prove again. "It's funny how things happen in life and how people react," James said. "It seems like a lot of people try to tell you what to do with your life and most of the time they don't even

have their own life in order. That was just funny to me. So I'm really excited for this opportunity for this franchise, getting an opportunity to bring my game to this city."

James signed a \$109.8 million, six-year deal with Miami on July 9, one day after starring in an hourlong TV special to announce he was leaving Cleveland. He hasn't reached

Associated Press out to Gilbert, but has spoken with teammates he left behind and predicts Cleveland could exceed outside expectations this season.

Here in Miami, the Heat can't exceed expectations, only meet them.

This team was built to win titles, and James shrugged off the notion this season was "championship-or-bust."

"Not bust," James said. "But it is championship."

"Ditto," Wade added. "What he said."

It won't be easy, of course, which will be the message Heat coach Erik Spoelstra begins instilling Tuesday morning at Hurlburt Field, the U.S. Air Force installation where Miami's journey will begin.

Spoelstra and James have gotten to know each other a bit over the summer, from voluntary workouts at the team's arena to some lunches where conversations often drifted away from basketball. A bond is getting forged already, much like the one Spoelstra and Wade quickly began sharing seven years ago.

"He's been very serious," Spoelstra said. "He's a motivated player right now. I think it took a tremendous amount of courage to take the step that he did. It is a step of faith to come to our franchise, to really sacrifice so many things, to subject himself to possible criticism, to come to a franchise where he wants to be part of something even if that means he has to give up a little part of himself." □



In a Feb. 25, 2009, file photo, then-Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart poses for a photo in Tempe, Ariz. Adenhart died from injuries in an auto accident in Fullerton, Calif., in April 2009. The Orange County district attorney's office said Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, that opening statements in the second-degree murder case will begin Tuesday in Orange County Superior Court. Andrew Gallo, 23, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of second-degree murder and a count of felony hit-and-run.

Associated Press

Man convicted of murder in Angels pitcher's death

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA, California (AP) — A jury convicted a construction worker of murder Monday for a drunken-driving crash that killed promising rookie Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two of his friends.

It was the second driving under the influence conviction for Andrew Gallo, 23, who held white rosary beads and occasionally looked up at jurors as they returned their verdicts.

As he was led away in handcuffs, Gallo glanced over his shoulder at sobbing relatives of the victims gathered in the Orange County courtroom.

"What this case has shown is that the accelerator, the gas pedal on an automobile in the wrong hands is as dangerous as the trigger on a gun," Nigel Pearson, the father of 25-year-old victim Henry Pearson, said outside court. "And in the wrong hands, it can devastate the lives of many, many people."

Gallo was convicted on three counts of second-degree murder and single counts of drunken driving, hit-and-run driving,

and driving under the influence of alcohol and causing great bodily injury.

He faces 50 years to life in state prison at his scheduled sentencing on Dec. 10.

His attorney Jacqueline Goodman said Gallo would appeal.

"I think it's tragic," she told reporters. "I think there's been a miscarriage of justice." She previously said her client did not intend to kill anyone.

Prosecutors said they charged the case as a second-degree murder instead of the lesser charge of manslaughter because Gallo had a previous DUI conviction, had specific knowledge of the dangers of drinking and driving from his own experience, and had signed a court form from the earlier case saying he understood he could be charged with murder if he drove drunk again and killed someone.

To win a murder conviction, prosecutors had to show Gallo acted with implied malice, intentionally drove drunk, acted with a conscious disregard for human life, and knew from his personal experience that he could kill someone.

Adenhart, 22, died just hours after pitching six scoreless innings in his

season debut for the major league baseball team. Pearson and Courtney Stewart, 20, also died in the April 9, 2009, collision in Fullerton. Passenger Jon Wilhite was severely injured.

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said it was the 11th DUI-related murder conviction in the county since 2008. Angels pitcher Jered Weaver said he found out about the verdict in a text message from a team official.

"Obviously, we're glad to see that the guy got what was coming for him, but that's pretty much all I can say. Hopefully it put a little closure to what the families had to deal with," Weaver said.

Said Angels manager Mike Scioscia: "There's certainly no joy involved, but I think it's some closure for a number of families that have been just going through the worst nightmare for a family."

"Nothing that happened today is ever going to bring Nick, Henry and Courtney back or erase that tragedy in the life of the kid who survived, Jon Wilhite. But I think it inches all of us toward a sense of peace, and we're just going to continue to move on," he said. □

Yankees rally to beat Red Sox 4-3 in 10 innings

NEW YORK (AP) — On a night when Mariano Rivera and Jonathan Papelbon both failed to hold ninth-inning leads, Juan Miranda drew a bases-loaded walk from Hideki Okajima in the 10th that gave the New York Yankees a dramatic 4-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday.

AL Roundup New York stopped a four-game losing streak that matched its season high. The Yankees cut the magic number to one for their 15th playoff berth in 16 years and closed within a half-game of American League East-leading Tampa Bay.

Boston lost for just the fifth time in 13 games, a key defeat in an improbable September run. Boston dropped 6 1/2 games behind the Yankees in the AL wild-card race, and just seven games remain for the Red Sox.

Alex Rodriguez put the Yankees ahead 2-1 with his 29th homer, a two-run drive in the seventh off Daisuke Matsuzaka.

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Josh Wilson hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the sixth inning off James Shields as Seattle stalled AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

The Rays' four-game winning streak ended. Tampa Bay's lead in the AL East was cut to a half-game.

Wilson hit his second home run of the season, and first since May 10. He was in an 0-for-14 slump when he connected with two outs off Shields (13-14) for a 5-2 lead.

The homer was the 34th allowed by Shields this season, breaking Tanyon Sturtze's team record of 33 set in 2002.

Rangers 16, Athletics 9

At Oakland, California, rookie Mitch Moreland homered twice and drove in a season-high five runs to lead AL West champion Texas past Trevor Cahill Oakland.

David Murphy hit a two-run homer and Jeff Francoeur added a solo shot as the Rangers won their third straight game. A day after clinching the division, Texas

rested many of its regulars and still got a season-high 22 hits.

Colby Lewis (12-13) gave up one run and six hits in six innings. He is set to start Game 3 in the first round of the playoffs. Cliff Lee will pitch the opener, followed by C.J. Wilson.

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera set off an "MVP!" chant with his career-high 38th homer, helping Detroit beat Minnesota in their final home game of the season.

Rick Porcello (10-11) gave up a solo homer to Delmon Young and just three other hits over eight innings.

Brian Duensing (10-3) allowed five runs, seven hits and four walks over 6 2-3 innings for the AL Central champions. The banged-up Twins played without Justin Morneau, Joe Mauer, Denard Span, J.J. Hardy and Jason Repko.

At Toronto, major league home run leader Jose Bautista was twice hit by pitches, leading to the ejection of Baltimore manager Buck Showalter as Toronto the Orioles.

Bautista has hit 52 homers this year, including nine against the Orioles. Rick VandenHurk (0-1) hit Bautista in the third inning, then Shaun Marcum (13-8) plunked Orioles designated hitter Luke Scott to begin the fourth.

Alfredo Simon replaced



Boston Red Sox catcher Victor Martinez watches as New York Yankees Juan Miranda reacts after Boston Red Sox reliever Hideki Okajima issued a bases loaded walk to him, walking in the winning run in the Yankees 4-3, 10th inning victory over the Boston Red Sox in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010.

VandenHurk in the fifth. Bautista came up with one out and after throwing two balls, the second of which was high and inside, Simon hit the Toronto star on the left forearm and was ejected by plate umpire Bill Welke.

Showalter came out to argue and was also thrown out, his second ejection of the season. At Anaheim, California, Juan Pierre tripled home the tying run and scored on Omar

Vizquel's single in the seventh inning, leading Chicago over Los Angeles.

The White Sox have beaten the Angels seven straight times, their longest winning streak against them since a 10-game stretch in 1983-84.

Angels starter Jered Weaver (13-12) struck out nine and took over the major league strikeout lead with 229, two more than Seattle's Felix Hernandez.

Associated Press
At Cleveland, pinch-hitter Michael Brantley's two-run double capped a five-run rally in the eighth inning that carried Cleveland over Kansas City.

In other AL games it was Cleveland 5, Kansas City 3; Detroit 5, Minnesota 1; Toronto 5, Baltimore 2; Seattle 6, Tampa Bay 2; Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Angels 3; Texas 16, Oakland 9; and N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 3, 10 innings. □



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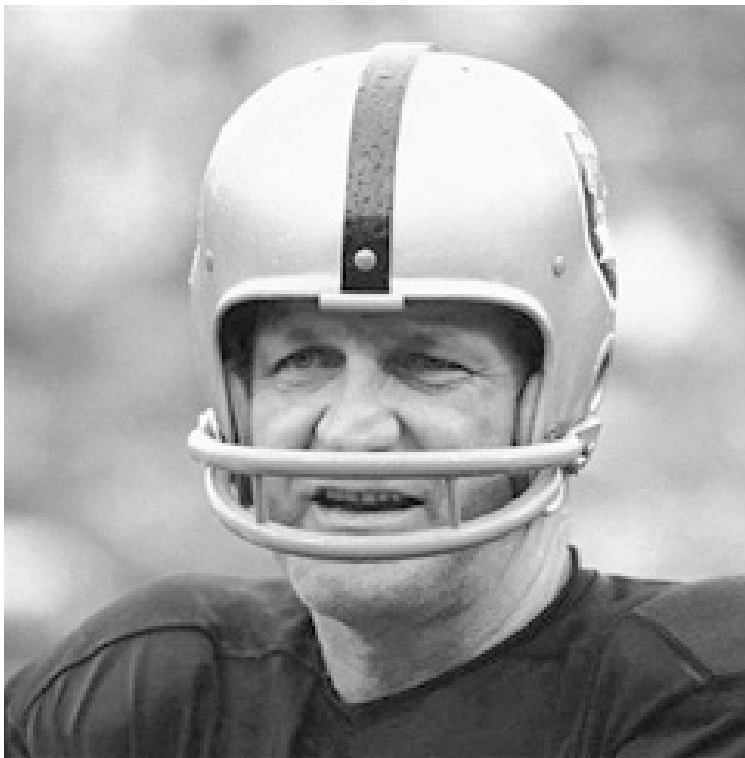


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This Jan. 11, 1971 file photo shows George Blanda, sub quarterback and kicking specialist of the Oakland Raiders. The Oakland Raiders say Hall of Fame quarterback George Blanda has died, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. He was 83.

Associated Press

GEORGE BLANDA

Continued from Page B1

He scored 2,002 points in his career, a pro football record at the time of his retirement, kicking 335 field goals and 943 extra points, running for nine touchdowns and throwing for 236 more.

But it was a five-game stretch for Oakland in 1970 that is the lasting imprint from his career. As a 43-year-old, Blanda led the Raiders to four wins and one tie with late touchdown passes or field goals.

Later that season, he became the oldest quarterback to play in a championship game, throwing two touchdown passes and kicking a field goal in Oakland's 27-17 loss to Baltimore in the AFC title game. His performance that season earned him The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year.

Blanda joined the Oilers of the new American Football League in 1960 and played 16 more seasons before hanging it up for good following the 1975 campaign.

Blanda led the Oilers to the first two AFL titles, beating the Chargers for the championship following the 1960 and '61 seasons. He nearly won a third straight title when he led the Oilers back from a 17-0 halftime deficit to the Dallas Texans in the 1962 title game before losing in double overtime.

He began his memorable run in 1970 by throwing three touchdown passes in place of

an injured Daryle Lamonica in a 31-14 win over Pittsburgh on Oct. 25. The following week he kicked a 48-yard field goal in the final seconds to give the Raiders a 17-17 tie against Kansas City.

Blanda was just getting started. He threw a tying touchdown pass with 1:34 remaining and then kicked the game-winning 52-yard field goal in the final seconds the following week in a 23-20 win over Cleveland.

He followed that with a 20-yard TD pass to Fred Biletnikoff in place of Lamonica in a 24-19 victory over Denver the next week, then kicked a 16-yard field goal in the closing seconds to beat San Diego 20-17 on Nov. 22.

"The game that I remember the most was playing against Cleveland in 1970," he once said. "We were down 20-13 and I came in and we got a touchdown and then we got a field goal in the last three seconds." Blanda entered the NFL out of Kentucky as a 12th-round pick (119th overall) of the Chicago Bears in 1949. He spent most of the next decade with the Bears, leaving to play one game for the Colts in 1950. After winning the Bears starting job in 1953, Blanda promptly lost it the following season because of injury. His playing time at quarterback quickly diminished and he retired in 1959 at age 31 when Chicago planned to make him a full-time kicker.

It was a short-lived break. Blanda joined the Oilers of the new American Football League in 1960 and played 16 more seasons before hanging it up for good following the 1975 campaign.

Blanda was one of the new league's many prolific passers, throwing for 19,149 yards and 165 touchdowns in seven seasons for the Oilers. He was the AFL Player of the Year in 1961, holds AFL single-game passing record of 464 yards on Oct. 29, 1961, against Buffalo, and was chosen the league's all-time kicker.

"We did all the strategy right on the field," he once said. "Today, the coaches call all the plays, so all the quarterbacks have to do is perform. They are more or less programmed."

The Oilers thought he was at the end of his career in 1967, but the Raiders picked him up as a backup quarterback and kicker and he lasted nine more seasons.

Blanda threw for 26,920 yards in his career and held the pro football record with 277 interceptions until Brett Favre passed him in 2007. He retired with the most points in history before the total was topped by several players in recent years.

"It certainly doesn't bother me," Blanda said about losing the scoring record. "The one record I was happy to get rid of was the one for the most interceptions, when Brett Favre got that one." □

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Date Krumm beats Sharapova at Pan Pacific

JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese veteran Kimiko Date Krumm rallied to beat defending champion Maria Sharapova 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 on Monday in the first round of the Pan Pacific Open.

Date Krumm, who is one day short of her 40th birthday, broke the 23-year-old Russian to go up 5-3 in the third set and won the final game when Sharapova's backhand went wide.

"To play against a former World No. 1 and defending champion, I knew I had to play to the best of my ability," said Date Krumm, who returned to competitive tennis in 2008 after a 12-year layoff.

Sharapova, who is the tournament's 12th seeded player, had 11 double faults in the match that lasted 2 hours and 9 minutes at Ariake Colosseum.

Sharapova broke Date to go up 3-2 in the final set and was leading 40-love in the sixth game when she double faulted twice before being broken by Date Krumm.

"Momentum is so big in tennis," Sharapova

said. "If you give your opponent a chance they can get confident and take the momentum away."

It was the first meeting between the two players. Sharapova said she was impressed with Date Krumm's ability and fitness after such a long layoff.

"It's incredible," Sharapova said. "It just shows you how she has stayed in such great shape while away from the game. She is incredibly fit."

Date Krumm had just returned from Seoul where she lost in the quarterfinals of the Korea Open on Friday. She said the quick turnaround was not easy.

"I just came back from Korea yesterday and was really tired," she said. "My body felt a little better today but this surface was a lot faster than the one in Korea."

In second-round matches, third-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia defeated Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-4, 6-1, and sixth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland coasted to a 6-2, 6-3 win over Olga Govortsova of Belarus. □



Kimiko Date Krumm of Japan reacts after winning over Maria Sharapova of Russia during their first round match of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. Date won the match 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Associated Press



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SPORTS BRIEFS

U.S. wins 6th straight FIM Motocross of Nations

LAKEWOOD, Colorado (AP) — Ryan Dungey and Andrew Short finished 1-2 in the final race Sunday as the United States captured its sixth straight title at the Red Bull FIM Motocross Of Nations at Thunder Valley track.

The Americans, seeded first after Saturday's qualifying round, entered Sunday's third race in second place, five points behind Germany. Dungey, competing in the MX1 division, finished first for the second time Sunday to propel the United States to the Chamberlain Cup crown with 23 points.

Belgium was second with 30 points and Germany finished third with 44.

The team with the lowest point total wins.

Short, racing in the Open division, was in a collision and



In this May 8, 2010, file photo, released by Acorn Woods Communications, motocross rider Ryan Dungey flies through the air during the AMA motocross race in Las Vegas, Nev.

Associated Press

finished 13th in his first race of the day but rallied to take second in the final race.

Nate Smith wins first Nationwide title

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Nate Smith won the WNB Golf Classic for his first Nationwide Tour title, shooting a 6-under 66 on Sunday for a two-stroke victory over Australia's Alistair Presnell, Fabian Gomez of Argentina and Brandt Jobe.

Smith, 27, in his first season on the tour, finished at 18 under on the Midland Country Club course. He earned \$94,500 to jump from 78th to 25th on the money list with \$153,054. The top 25 after the final five events will earn 2011 PGA Tour cards.

He made a 35-foot birdie putt on 18.

Presnell closed with a 65, Gomez shot a 66, and Jobe had a 68.



Erika de Souza Machado, left, from Brazil blocks Maria Stepanova, right, from Russia during their World Basketball Championship round of 16 match in Brno, Czech Republic, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010.

Associated Press

Fire breaks out at world women's basketball venue

KARLOVY VARY, Czech Republic (AP) — An electrical fire broke out at the site of the medal round of the women's world basketball championship.

There were a few hundred people in the arena at the time of Monday's fire. One person was taken to a hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation, according to a FIBA official.

NFL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B1

At Minneapolis, Adrian Peterson sped around the corner for a career-long 80-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter, spurring Minnesota to its first win of the season.

Brett Favre took all kinds of hard hits in the pocket and threw two interceptions while Minnesota's passing attack frequently misfired, but Peterson picked up the slack with 160 yards on 23 carries. His game-breaking run around right end put Minnesota up 24-10.

Colts 27, Broncos 13

At Denver, Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns even without Anthony Gonzalez and Pierre Garcon to lead Indianapolis over the grieving Denver.

The Broncos (1-2) were playing with heavy hearts following the death of teammate Kenny McKinley.

Kyle Orton threw for a career-best 476 yards on 37-of-57 passing and the Broncos outgained the Colts (2-1) by more than 100 yards. But they failed to get into the end zone on five trips inside the 20, settling for two field goals and turning over the ball on downs three times.

Eagles 28, Jaguars 3

At Jacksonville, Florida, Michael Vick threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score for Philadelphia.

Vick completed 17 of 31 passes for 291 yards, mostly staying in the pocket and picking apart Jacksonville's beleaguered secondary. One of the few times he did run, he broke a tackle, juke another defender and scored from 17 yards out.

He made coach Andy Reid's quarterback decision look like the right one.

At St. Louis, rookie quarterback Sam Bradford threw for 235 yards and a touchdown and backup running back Kenneth Darby had the go-ahead score to help St. Louis end a 14-game home losing streak.

Bradford, the No. 1 overall draft pick, was 23 for 37 and completed passes to nine receivers. He had one interception.

Seahawks 27, Chargers 20



New York Jets Wide receiver Braylon Edwards (17) scores a touchdown in the third quarter against the Miami Dolphins during an NFL football game in Miami, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010.

Associated Press

At Seattle, Leon Washington returned two second-half kickoffs for touchdowns of 101 and 99 yards, making to give Seattle the win.

Washington took the opening kickoff of the second half 101 yards to give Seattle a 17-0 lead. Phillip Rivers brought the Chargers (1-2) back, tying the game at 20 on a 12-yard throw to Antonio Gates and a 2-point conversion to Legedu Naanee with 6:39 left.

Fifteen seconds later, Seattle (2-1) was back in front. Washington got lost in a pile, squirted free and raced 99 yards to give Seattle a 27-20 advantage.

Ay Glendale, Arizona, Sebastian Janikowski missed a 32-yard field goal as the game ended to allow Arizona to escape in a game littered with mistakes by both teams. The wide-left kick came after a pass interference call against Arizona's Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. Janikowski missed two others in the game, a 41-yarder and a 58-yarder. Both were wide right.

Patriots 38, Bills 30

At Foxborough, Massachusetts, Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes, two to Randy Moss, as New England topped Buffalo for the 14th straight time.

First-round draft pick C.J. Spiller scored his first NFL touchdowns on a 5-yard pass from Ryan Fitzpatrick and a 95-yard kickoff return. But Buffalo's last chance faded when Fitzpatrick—who started in place of Trent Edwards—threw an interception to Brandon Meriweather with 3 minutes left.

At Kansas City, Missouri, Matt Cassel's three touchdown passes included a trick play that caught San Francisco flat-footed as Kansas City remained unbeaten.

After starting 0-4 a year ago and winning only 10 games the previous three seasons combined, the Chiefs are 3-0 for the first time since 2003.

In other NFL games it was Dallas 27, Houston 13; New England 38, Buffalo 30; Baltimore 24, Cleveland 17; Atlanta 27, New Orleans 24, OT; Tennessee 29, N.Y. Giants 10; Cincinnati 20, Carolina 7; Kansas City 31, San Francisco 10; Pittsburgh 38, Tampa Bay 13; Minnesota 24, Detroit 10; St. Louis 30, Washington 16; Philadelphia 28, Jacksonville 3; Seattle 27, San Diego 20; Arizona 24, Oakland 23; Indianapolis 27, Denver 13; and N.Y. Jets 31, Miami 23.



Appeals court considers ban on stem cell research

By NEDRA PICKLER,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration pleaded with an appeals court Monday to overturn a judge's order halting federal funding of stem cell research, arguing the ban would irreparably harm scientific progress toward potentially lifesaving medical treatment.

A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is considering whether to throw out a lower court judge's ban on President Barack Obama's rules for federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

Chief Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court in Washington temporarily

blocked Obama's rules a month ago because he said it's likely they violate the law on federal funding of embryo destruction. He's presiding in a lawsuit challenging those rules, filed by the nonprofit group Nightlight Christian Adoptions, which helps with the adoption of human embryos that are being stored in fertilization clinics.

Study:

U.S. Kids Drink Too Little Water

By Steven Reinberg

Children in the United States are not drinking as much water as they should, and the deficiency can have far-reaching implications, a new study suggests.

"Even mild dehydration can affect physiological function, and cause fatigue, muscle weakness, headaches and dry mouth," said Samantha Heller, clinical nutrition coordinator at the Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn., who was not involved in the study.

Impaired cognitive and mental performance are also linked to inadequate hydration, said Heller. According to the study, published in the October issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, only 15 to 60 percent of boys and 10 to 54 percent of girls, depending on age, drink the minimum amount of water recommended by the U.S. Institute of Medicine.

Children obtain much of their water from sweetened beverages rather than plain old H₂O, the researchers found. And those who drink the most plain water consume fewer sweetened beverages and eat fewer high-calorie foods.

For the study, Ashima K. Kant from Queens College of the City University of New York and Barry I. Graubard of the U.S. National Cancer Institute looked at the water intake of 3,978 boys and girls, aged 2 to 19 years, who had been included in a national nutrition study from 2005 to 2006.

Included in their analysis was water itself, water in moist foods, and moisture in all beverages and nutritious drinks such as milk and juice.

The investigators found that water intake from all sources varied by age: 2- to 5-year-olds drank 5.9 cups a day; 6- to 11-year-olds got 6.8 cups, and 12- to 19-year-olds consumed

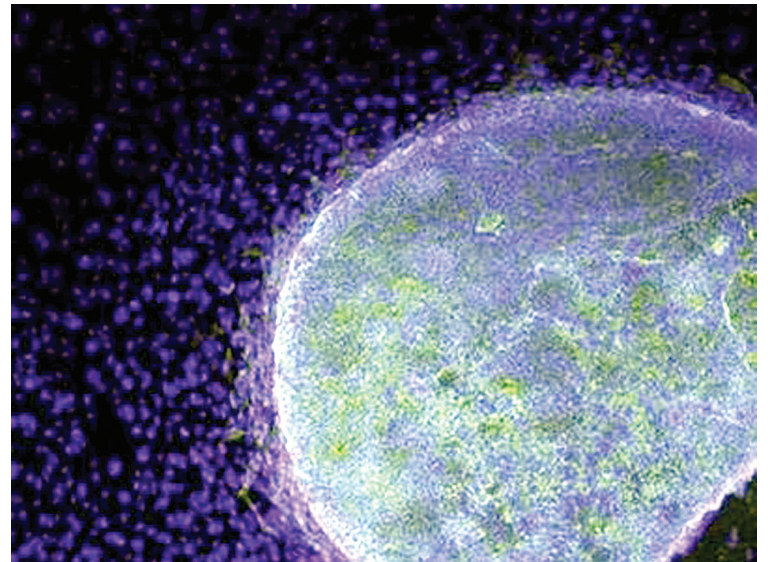
10.1 cups daily. Girls generally drank less than boys, Kant and Graubard noted.

Kids of all ages are more likely to drink beverages than water at mealtime, the findings suggest. More than two-thirds of water consumption was derived from beverages with main meals, while only one-third of the plain water was consumed with meals, the researchers found. "Our results suggest age differences in the extent of water contributed by different sources to the diets of American children," the study authors wrote.

"The quality of food selections reported in association with plain water intake was better than that reported with increasing beverage moisture, and the strength of these associations varied with age," they added.

"Efforts to moderate the consumption of sweetened beverages and promote plain water intake should not only continue to promote plain water for snacks but also should recognize the importance of replacing nonnutritive beverages at meal time with plain water," Kant and Graubard concluded.

As the children got older, consumption of plain water increased while intake of nutritive beverages, such as milk, decreased, the researchers found. Water makes up 55 to 75 percent of total body weight, said Heller. "We cannot live without water for more than a few days because our bodies cannot store water. Thus, it is essential we replace the water our bodies lose every day," Heller, a nutritionist and dietitian, advises starting children on water early. "Give them water instead of sweetened beverages during the day and between meals," she said. To make it more appealing, put sliced cucumbers, oranges, lemons or strawberries in ice water, she suggested. And if your child is hooked on sodas, she advised transitioning to seltzer or flavored seltzers instead. □



A microscopic view of a colony of human embryonic stem cells (light blue) growing on fibroblasts (dark blue).

The appeals court stayed Lamberth's order and allowed the research to continue while it takes up the case. It gave both sides in the dispute 15 minutes each to present its arguments over the injunction, but in an indication of the high stakes in the case ended up questioning the attorneys for more than an hour.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Beth Brinkmann told the appellate judges that Lamberth's injunction would stop funding to 24 research projects at the National Institutes of Health that have already received \$64 million in taxpayer investment.

Judge Thomas Griffith questioned whether the work would really be irreparably harmed or just delayed if the government ultimately can win the ongoing case.

"All \$64 million is completely ruined?" Griffith asked. "They don't keep lab notebooks?" Brinkmann responded there are notes, but "it would be a setback for the field. Biological material would be destroyed." Thomas Hungar, lawyer for the adoption group, argued that just because the government can't do the research on its preferred timetable, it's not an irreparable harm.

Embryonic stem cells are master cells that can turn into

any tissue of the body, and researchers hope one day to harness that power in ways that cure spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease and other ailments.

Opponents say the research is another form of abortion because human embryos must be destroyed to obtain the stem cells. A 1996 law prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars in work that harms an embryo, so batches have been culled using private money. But those batches can reproduce in lab dishes indefinitely, and government policies say using taxpayer dollars to work with the already created batches is permissible.

The Obama administration expanded the number of stem cell lines created with private money that federally funded scientists could research, up from the 21 that President George W. Bush had allowed to 75 so far. To qualify, parents who donate the original embryo must be told of other options, such as donating to another infertile woman.

Congress twice passed legislation specifically calling for tax-funded stem cell research, which Bush vetoed. Some Democrats are considering whether to try the legislation again in light of Lamberth's ruling. □

'Titanic' co-star Gloria Stuart dies at 100



FILE - In this July 19, 2010 file photo, actress Gloria Stuart poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

Continued from Front Page

But Stuart's later career would have remained largely a footnote if James Cameron had not chosen her for his 1997 epic about the doomed luxury liner that struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage in 1912.

Stuart co-starred as Rose Calvert, the 101-year-old survivor played by

Kate Winslet as a young woman. Both earned Oscar nominations, Winslet as best actress and Stuart as supporting actress.

Cameron wanted an actress who was "still viable, not alcoholic, rheumatic or falling down," Stuart once said. Then in her mid-80s, Stuart endured hours in the makeup chair so she could look 15 years

older, and she traveled to the Atlantic location, where the wreck of the real Titanic was photographed.

"Titanic" took in \$1.8 billion worldwide to become the biggest modern blockbuster, a position it held until Cameron's "Avatar" came along last year and passed it on the box-office chart. It was the first time in Oscar history that two performers were nominated for playing the same character in the same film, and it made the 87-year-old Stuart the oldest acting nominee in history.

"Anchors aweigh!" Stuart said when nominations were announced in February 1998. The film's release was preceded by delays and speculation that it could turn into a colossal flop. Of the film's doubters, Stuart said: "They were dissing it all around. That happens in Hollywood."

Stuart was thought by many to be the sentimental favorite for the supporting-actress prize, but the award went to Kim Basinger for "L.A.

Confidential."

But she capitalized on her renewed fame by writing a memoir, "I Just Kept Hoping," which raised eyebrows because of its sexual frankness.

The best known of her early film work came in two of the celebrated series of horror films by director James Whale.

In 1932's "The Old Dark House," Stuart plays one of the travelers who take refuge in a spooky home peopled with strange characters, one played by Boris Karloff, fresh off his star-making turn in Whale's "Frankenstein."

In 1933's "The Invisible Man," Stuart is the love interest for the scientist (Claude Rains) who makes himself invisible. Among her other films were the Eddie Cantor comedy "Roman Scandals," John Ford's "The Prisoner of Shark Island" and a string of dramas. She said she quit the business because she was tired of playing "girl detective, girl reporter and Shirley Temple's

friend." But she brought spirit and intelligence to many routine plots.

"The Girl on the Front Page" is typical of such films. Made in 1936, it tells the story of a socialite who inherits a newspaper when her father dies suddenly. Stuart's character decides to learn the business by working anonymously as a reporter, and after some sparring with the tough editor, she winds up helping him solve a murder-blackmail plot.

In her later years, she took an occasional role in television, but before doing "Titanic," she had not worked in several years.

Stuart was born in 1910 in Santa Monica, Calif., and began acting while in college. She soon signed with Universal Studios, which was responsible for "The Old Dark House" and many other horror classics of the 1930s.

Stuart is survived by a daughter, Sylvia Vaughn Thompson, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. □



FILE - In this Aug. 18, 2010 file photo, Haiti's presidential candidate and hip hop singer Wyclef Jean, speaks during an interview at his mother's house in Croix de Bouquets, Haiti.

Wyclef Jean hospitalized, suffering from 'stress'

NEW YORK — A representative for hip-hop singer Wyclef Jean (WY'-klef zhahn) says he has been hospitalized at an undisclosed location.

The 37-year-old Grammy Award winner checked into a hospital over the weekend. His representative Marian Salzman says he's "suffering from stress and fatigue based on the grueling eight weeks he's had."

Jean announced a bid for Haiti's presidency in August but ended it last week. No official reasons were given for Jean's exclusion although he's presumed not to have met constitutional requirements, including living in Haiti.

Jean was born on the outskirts of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince (port-oh-PRIHNS'). He grew up in New York and lives in New Jersey.

His rep says he "plans to take it easy" and will be released from the hospital this week.

Jean also is planning to release a new album. □

Model's documentary exposes fashion's darker side



American model Sara Ziff, right, and boyfriend Ole Schell pose in Paris, Monday, Sept. 27, 2010. Ziff who began her decade-long career at age 14, started making home videos backstage as a lark along with Ole Schell, a NYU film school student. But the couple's hobby grew into something bigger, an inside peek behind the industry's glamorous facade into its darker side, of body image problems and even sexual abuse. Ziff says she hopes "Picture Me," which opens in France next month, will be a 'catalyst for change' in the industry.

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

By JENNY BARCHFIELD, Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Discovered at age 14 outside her Manhattan school, Sara Ziff was quickly swept up into the high-glamour whirlwind of the fashion industry, jetting to Paris and Milan for shoots and shows and getting paychecks with an astonishing number of zeros.

She and her boyfriend, a film school graduate, started taking home videos backstage on a lark, but the couple's hobby bloomed into something bigger — an inside peek behind the industry's high-gloss facade into its darker side of body image problems, drugs and even sexual abuse.

Ziff, a blue-eyed blond who

walked for luxury supernovas including Louis Vuitton and Chanel, says the couple's documentary, "Picture Me," shows an industry sometimes out of control.

"It's sort of the 'Wild West,' with people feeling the rules don't apply in fashion, for some reason. I'd like to be a part of making some sort of changes in that way," Ziff, 28, told The Associated Press.

She and her boyfriend and co-director, Ole Schell, were in Paris Monday to promote the movie among the fashion glitterati, who are flocking to the city for the spring-summer 2011 ready-to-wear show, which begins Tuesday. The movie, which is currently playing in Los Angeles, is scheduled to be released in Paris next month.

Shot over a period of five years by Ziff, Schell and their model friends, "Picture Me" makes a convincing case for the need for some sort of regulation in an industry where girls begin their careers at age 14 or even as young as 12. □

BUSINESS**Aruba TODAY****Southwest Airlines to buy AirTran for \$1.4B**

SAMANTHA BOMKAMP,
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK — Southwest Airlines has agreed to buy AirTran in a \$1.42 billion deal that will combine two of the nation's biggest discount carriers.

The two airlines primarily overlap in the Baltimore and Orlando markets. Passengers traveling to and from those cities could face higher ticket prices because less competition traditionally means higher airfares.

The acquisition moves Southwest into 37 new cities. The largest of those is Atlanta, where Delta Air Lines is based. Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International airport is the nation's busiest, and a primary hub for business travelers, a group that Southwest has increasingly been targeting because they tend to pay higher fares. The acquisition also gives Southwest a bigger slice of the market in cities like Boston and New York, major East Coast cities, where it has been expanding. The deal is also a boost to Southwest's plans to expand internationally. The Dallas carrier gains routes to Mexico and the Caribbean, where fellow discount airline JetBlue Airways has a big presence.

There is one change passengers will surely welcome: Southwest said it won't keep AirTran's bag fees when they fully combine in 2012. AirTran currently charges \$20 for a passenger's first checked bag, and \$25 for the second. Major carriers like United and American charge \$25 for the first bag and \$35 for the second. Southwest claims it has lured passengers from those airlines by refusing to charge for bags, and has built a marketing campaign around the policy.

Southwest, based in Dallas, carries more passengers than any other airline in the U.S. AirTran is the nation's 8th

largest carrier. Besides its base in Atlanta, AirTran has hubs in Milwaukee and Orlando. Southwest will remain the No. 4 airline by traffic.

This latest deal continues the airline industry's move to consolidate. Continental Airlines and United Airlines parent UAL Corp. will formally combine at the end of this week and become the world's largest, toppling Delta. Delta claimed that spot when it acquired Northwest Airlines two years ago.

Southwest tried unsuccessfully last year to buy Frontier Airlines out of bankruptcy. Republic Airways Holdings won the auction for Frontier last August, buying the Denver-based carrier for almost \$108.8 million.

Southwest's acquisition of AirTran is expected to close in the first half of next year. It requires both regulatory and shareholder approval. The airlines expect to fully blend their operations in 2012.

Based on Southwest Airlines' closing share price on Friday, the deal is worth \$7.69 per AirTran share. That's a 69 percent premium over its closing price of \$4.55. In premarket trading, AirTran shares jumped 61 percent to \$7.31, while Southwest shares rose 12 cents to \$12.40.

Southwest will pay about \$670 million with available cash. Southwest will assume \$2 billion in AirTran debt.

Southwest and AirTran said the new airline will operate from more than 100 different airports and serve more than 100 million customers.

In April, AirTran Holdings Inc. CEO Robert Fornaro signaled his interest in making a deal, saying the airline would consider a combination with another carrier if approached and if such a deal made sense for the company and shareholders. But when asked by The Associated Press who

might be a potential suitor for AirTran, Fornaro said, "I'm not sure that we're necessarily a natural fit to be gobbled up by somebody else."

AirTran would be Southwest's largest acquisition by a wide margin. The company, which began with a handful of planes hopping among three Texas cities in the early 1970s, bought Morris Air and Muse Air in the mid-1980s. Two years ago, Southwest bought assets of ATA Airlines out of bankruptcy, which gave Southwest an opening to serve New York with ATA's takeoff and landing slots at LaGuardia Airport. □



FILE - In this Jan. 26, 2007 file photo, an AirTran plane leaves Logan International Airport in Boston. Southwest Airlines is buying AirTran for about \$1.4 billion as it seeks entry into a number of smaller markets Monday, Sept. 27, 2010.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, file)

Stocks edge lower as investors take profits

In this photo taken Sept. 17, 2010, traders Marshall Ryan, left, and Robert Maher work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stock futures edged higher Monday, Sept. 27, 2010, after the latest batch of corporate dealmaking.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks took a pause from their big September rally on Monday.

With no major economic reports to drive trading, investors focused instead on individual stocks after a fresh round of corporate dealmaking in the airline, consumer products and retailing industries.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 32 points in midday trading. The Dow entered Monday having risen each of the past four weeks, its longest winning streak since eight consecutive weekly gains ended in late April when stocks hit their highest levels of the year.

In deal news, consumer products giant Unilever NV agreed to buy beauty products maker Alberto Culver Co. for \$3.7 billion. Southwest

Airlines Co. will purchase AirTran Holdings Inc. for about \$1.4 billion. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. proposed to buy South African consumer goods distributor Massmart Holdings Ltd. for about \$4.25 billion.

Michael Sansoterra, portfolio manager of the RidgeWorth Large Cap Growth Fund, said the latest deals are a sign companies are confident economic growth will pick up in the coming quarters. Acquisition activity has been booming this month as companies become more willing to take large cash reserves built up during the recession and invest it.

"The timing is never certain, but smart companies are saying, 'if not now, when,'" Sansoterra said. "This is the time to be doing it."

The Dow fell 31.98, or 0.3 percent, to 10,828.20. Even with Monday's modest retreat, the Dow has jumped 8.1 percent in September, which is historically one of the worst months of the year for the market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 4.29, or 0.4 percent, to 1,144.38, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.71, or 0.4 percent, to 2,372.51.

Shares of Unilever, which makes Dove soaps, Axe deodorants and Suave shampoos, rose 35 cents to \$29.72. Alberto Culver, which makes beauty products such as TRESemme, VO5 and Simple, jumped \$6.15, or 19.5 percent, to \$37.63.

AirTran shares jumped \$2.79, or 61.3 percent, to \$7.34. The deal valued Airtran shares at \$7.69. Southwest rose \$1.18, or 9.6 percent, to \$13.46.

Wal-Mart shares fell 36 cents to \$53.72. □

Report: US would make Internet wiretaps easier



The Obama administration is drawing up legislation to make it easier for US intelligence services to eavesdrop on the Internet, including email exchanges and social networks, The New York Times said Monday.

WASHINGTON – Broad new regulations being drafted by the Obama administration would make it easier for law enforcement and national

security officials to eavesdrop on Internet and e-mail communications like social networking Web sites and BlackBerries, The New York

Times reported Monday.

The newspaper said the White House plans to submit a bill next year that would require all online services that enable communications to be technically equipped to comply with a wiretap order. That would include providers of encrypted e-mail, such as BlackBerry, networking sites like Facebook and direct communication services like Skype.

Federal law enforcement and national security officials say new the regulations are needed because terrorists and criminals are increasingly giving up their phones to communicate online.

“We’re talking about lawfully authorized intercepts,” said FBI lawyer Valerie E. Caproni. “We’re not talking about

expanding authority. We’re talking about preserving our ability to execute our existing authority in order to protect the public safety and national security.”

The White House plans to submit the proposed legislation to Congress next year.

The new regulations would raise new questions about protecting people’s privacy while balancing national security concerns.

James Dempsey, the vice president of the Center for Democracy and Technology, an Internet policy group, said the new regulations would have “huge implications.”

“They basically want to turn back the clock and make Internet services function the way that the telephone system used to function,” he told the

Times.

The Times said the Obama proposal would likely include several requires:

-Any service that provides encrypted messages must be capable of unscrambling them.

-Any foreign communications providers that do business in the U.S. would have to have an office in the United States that’s capable of providing intercepts.

-Software developers of peer-to-peer communications services would be required to redesign their products to allow interception.

The Times said that some privacy and technology advocates say the regulations would create weaknesses in the technology that hackers could more easily exploit. □

Segway owner dies after falling off river cliff

By GREGORY KATZ,
Associated Press Writer

LONDON – A wealthy British businessman who owns the company that makes the two-wheeled Segway has been found dead in a river in northern England after apparently falling off a cliff on one of the vehicles, police said Monday.

The body of 62-year-old Jimi Heselden and a Segway personal transporter were found in the River Wharfe and he was pronounced dead at the scene, West Yorkshire Police said.

A witness had reported seeing a man fall Sunday over a 30-foot (9-meter) drop into the river near the village of Boston Spa, 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of London. “The incident is not believed to be suspicious,” police said, indicating that they do not believe anyone else was involved.

Heselden, who bought control of the Bedford, New Hampshire-based Segway company in December, made his fortune through his firm Hesco Bastion Ltd., which developed a successful blast wall system that replaced the sand bags once used to protect troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hesco Bastion confirmed that

Heselden “died in a tragic accident near his home in West Yorkshire.”

Police have not revealed further details about the incident. A dozen members of Heselden’s family asked for privacy Monday after placing flowers at the heavily wooded accident site, which is popular with hikers and nature lovers. The battery-powered Segway, which is stabilized by gyroscopes, was invented by Dean Kamen, who founded the company in 1999. Kamen was traveling Monday and could not be immediately reached for comment.

The unique Segway transporter relies on electricity to recharge its batteries and travels at speeds up to 12.5 mph (20 kph), the company says on its website. It is more protective of the environment than other scooters and automobiles, the company says, claiming it is 11 times more efficient than the average American car and also can be used indoors because it has no emissions. Yet the lack of information about the circumstances surrounding Heselden’s death prompted new questions about the Segway’s safety record — concerns that have been raised before.

The company recalled all its U.S. vehicles in 2006 because

of a software problem that could cause its wheels to reverse direction, causing riders to fall off. The vehicle has also not been approved in Britain for road use, despite protests from Segway loyalists.

Segways have been banned by some U.S. cities but have also been embraced by other U.S. police departments as a useful tool in community patrols.

President George W. Bush tried a Segway at his family’s home in Maine in 2003 but the vehicle fell over when he tried to get on. The president was able to hop over the transporter and was unhurt.

British TV host Piers Morgan, set to replace Larry King on CNN, also fell off a Segway — one of dozens of Segway mishaps that can be seen on YouTube.

Heselden left school at 15 and first worked as a coal miner before becoming a businessman and later a well known philanthropist in Britain. Hesco Bastion is a privately held company based in Leeds, near the tough Halton Moor area where Heselden grew up.

The company said Heselden recently gave 10 million pounds (\$15.9 million) to the LeedsCommunityFoundation, raising his total charitable

giving to 23 million pounds.

“Jimi was an amazing man who, apart from being a wonderful success story for Leeds due to his business acumen, was also remarkably selfless and generous, giving millions to local charities to help people in his home city,” said Tom Riordan, the chief executive of Leeds City Council.

He described Heselden as a quiet, good-natured man who was tremendously proud of being from Leeds and who believed that those who had prospered had an obligation to help others.

“There are people out there who are making money, and when times are good I honestly believe people have a moral obligation to use their wealth to help others,” Heselden told the Yorkshire Post earlier this year. “Life turned out pretty well for me, but I still work in the same area where I grew up, and everyday I see people who for whatever reason are down on their luck.”

Hesco barriers, wire frames that are fitted with liners and filled with dirt, sand or rocks, have mushroomed around the world’s battlefields, where U.S. and its allied troops use them to protect their bases. The barriers have also been used to fortify flood walls



This undated handout photo issued by Hesco Bastion on Sept. 27, 2010 shows Jimi Heselden, 62, a British businessman who last year bought the company that makes the two-wheeled Segway personal transporter, who has died in an accident on one of the vehicles. Police in West Yorkshire said Monday that James Heselden and a Segway were found in the River Wharfe near Boston Spa, in northern England. Police said a member of the public had reported seeing a man fall over a 30-foot (9-meter) drop into the river on Sunday.

(AP Photo/Andy Paraskos/Hesco/PA Wire)

in places like New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina or to stop oil from fouling delicate marshes along the southern U.S. coast during the massive BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Despite the YouTube videos, one U.S. businessman was quick to defend the Segway’s safety record. □



FILE - In this Nov. 30, 2003 file photo, Charlotte Lesher, the mother of Ramones singer Joey Ramone, holds a sign that honors her son in New York, and names the corner of Bowery and 2nd Street Joey Ramone Place, in honor of the punk musician.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull, file)

NYC forced to move oft-stolen Joey Ramone sign

NEW YORK – Officials say a metal homage to the late punk legend Joey Ramone may be New York City's most-stolen street sign.

The Department of Transportation recently had the "Joey Ramone Place" sign reinstalled in lower Manhattan for the fourth time since 2003.

This time, it was raised 8 eight feet to curb temptation. The New York Post says that puts it about 20 feet above street level.

The group's longtime drummer, Marky Ramone, thinks Joey would appreciate the most-stolen distinction. But he adds: "Now you have to be an NBA player to see it."

The sign is at the corner of Bowery and East Second Street.

DOT spokesman Seth Solomonow said Broadway, Wall Street and Love Lane signs also have attracted sign thieves

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EU nations reject 'a la carte' solution to GM impasse



One of Monsanto's genetically-modified maize cobs is pictured in July 2007. A controversial EU bid to allow member states to make their own decisions on whether or not to ban GM crops has hit a fresh snag after Italy and France dug in their heels against the move.

by Christian Spillmann

BRUSSELS – Europe's farm ministers Monday rejected a controversial EU proposal allowing member states to make their own decisions on whether or not to ban Genetically Modified crops as a way out of deadlock.

With the continent divided on genetically modified crops, the European Commission

proposed giving nations the individual freedom to ban or grow GM crops while allowing free circulation of GM goods in line with WTO rules.

But France and Italy, backed by big farming nations including Germany and Spain, refused the idea of Brussels shifting the onus onto member states, saying, like "The Three Musketeers", that the rule must

be "all for one, one for all."

"Italy does not support the proposal ... Each for himself undermines the foundations of the common agricultural policy (CAP)," said Italy's farm minister Giancarlo Galan.

"France wants a common decision," agreed French minister Bruno Lemaire. "Opting for national decision-making would give a wrong signal to European citizens and a wrong signal for the common agricultural policy."

Germany's position was even tougher, with Berlin's Robert Kloos "twice saying 'Nein'", a spokesman said.

Sabine Laruelle, agriculture minister for Belgium which currently holds the rotating presidency of the 27-nation bloc, said "a great majority of countries have many queries about the relevance of giving more power to the states."

"We won't find a compromise or consensus in just a couple of months," she added.

A final decision on the European Commission plan now rests with EU environment ministers, who meet October 14 in Luxembourg, but environment chiefs have traditionally taken a tougher stance than their farming counterparts on what detractors call "Frankenfoods." GM cultivation remains relatively limited in the EU, with six member states banning Monsanto's Mon 810 maize -- Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg -- and Poland banning all GM crops. To give opponents a legal basis against GMs, EU Health Commissioner John Dalli had

suggested that over and above EU-wide scientific restrictions, nations be able to ban them across all or part of their territory for socioeconomic, ethical or moral reasons.

The commission, he said recently, was neither for nor against GMs.

"But in today's world, they are a reality," he said. "Europe cannot stand idle and deny itself the political responsibility to take decisions and implement a policy of responsible innovation."

Europe has fallen behind the rest of the world amid public concerns over the potential effects of GM crops. While GM crops were cultivated worldwide in 2009 on 134 million hectares (331 million acres), the maize seed developed by US biotech giant Monsanto, MON 810, was grown on fewer than 95,000 hectares of land in the EU last year, down from almost 107,000 hectares in 2008.

Opponents of GM foods fear they would inevitably contaminate other crops and maintain that there is no definitive evidence of their safety.

Supporters argue that such crops have higher yields, resist pests and disease better and require less fertiliser and pesticide. They say farmers should be given the freedom to choose whether they want to plant GM crops.

The commission in March gave a green light to a GM potato developed by German group BASF, the Amflora, grown in the Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden but only for industrial uses for its starch content. □

Study Reveals Why Women Apologize So Much

Rachael Rettner

If you think you hear women saying "I'm sorry" more than men, you're right. Women apologize more often than men do, according to a new study.

But it's not that men are reluctant to admit wrongdoing, the study shows. It's just that they have a higher threshold for what they think warrants reparation. When the researchers looked at the number of apologies relative to the number of offenses the participants perceived they had committed, the researchers saw no differences between the genders.

"Men aren't actively resisting apologizing because they think it will make them appear weak or because they don't want to take responsibility for their actions," said study researcher Karina Schumann, a doctoral student in social psychology at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. "It seems to be that when they think they've done something wrong they do apologize just as frequently as when women think they've done something wrong. It's just that they think they've done fewer things wrong."

The findings might have implications for how men and women communicate with each other, she said.

Should you apologize?

Although women are often stereotyped as the more apologetic sex, there is little empirical evidence to back this assumption. Schumann and her colleagues conducted two studies to see if genders do indeed differ in how often they apologize, and if so, why this might be. In one, 33 university students ages 18 to 44 kept an online diary for 12 days documenting whether they apologized or did something they thought required an apology, even if they didn't actually say they were sorry. They also kept track of how often they felt someone had committed an offensive act against them that warranted an apology.

Women apologized more and reported committing more offensive acts, but both men and women apologized about 81 percent of the time when they deemed their actions offensive. Men were also less likely to report being victims of wrongdoing. □

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Aunque ganó la mayoría de los curules

Chávez sufre revés en elección legislativa de Venezuela

El oficialismo no logró las dos terceras partes de la Asamblea Nacional

CARACAS (Reuters) - La oposición venezolana ganó al menos un tercio de los escaños del parlamento y afirmó haber logrado la mayoría del voto popular, lo cual le permitiría frenar el avance de la "revolución socialista" del presidente Hugo Chávez de cara a las elecciones del 2012.

Aunque Chávez ganó la mayoría de los curules en las elecciones legislativas del domingo, fracasó en su objetivo de conservar las dos terceras partes que le permiten aprobar leyes orgánicas y designar otros poderes del Estado -como los magistrados del Tribunal Supremo y la Fiscalía- sin necesidad de negociar con otras fuerzas políticas.

Los resultados de los comicios, celebrados por ambas tendencias políticas que clamaron sus respectivas victorias, impulsaron una subida de los bonos de deuda venezolanos y estrecharon el diferencial del índice EMBI+,



Simpatizantes del presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, escuchan los resultados de las elecciones parlamentarias fuera del palacio de Miraflores en Caracas. Sep 27, 2010. REUTERS/Carlos García Rawlins

que mide el nivel de riesgo de los papeles.

El Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), que dio sólo los resultados de los circuitos donde la tendencia es irreversible, dijo la tarde del lunes que el gobernante Partido

Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) logró al menos 94 de los 165 diputados en juego y la oposición 62, mientras el disidente oficialista PPT obtuvo dos escaños.

"(Es) suficiente (...), el objetivo lo logramos en el sentido de

poder garantizar la defensa del comandante Hugo Chávez, de las políticas del Gobierno Bolivariano revolucionario", dijo el jefe de campaña del PSUV, Aristóbulo Istúriz, en conferencia de prensa.

Todavía faltan por definir seis

diputados por lo reñido de la votación, que podrían dar al oficialismo los tres quintos de los curules y la posibilidad de otorgar al mandatario poderes especiales para legislar por decreto temporalmente.

Istúriz agregó que a pesar de que el CNE aún no ha dado el total de los resultados, contabilizan 98 diputados a su favor, un 60 por ciento de la Asamblea.

La coalición opositora, con las actas de votación en mano, dijo que recibió el 53 por ciento de los sufragios, lo que supondría la segunda derrota del mandatario en las 13 elecciones celebradas desde que llegó al poder en 1999.

Aunque Chávez sigue siendo el político más popular del país petrolero con un respaldo de entre un 40-50 por ciento, su apoyo está lejos de los máximos por encima del 70 por ciento que tenía tras lograr la reelección en el 2006 y comienza a dar síntomas de fatiga tras casi 12 años en el poder. □

Procurador de Colombia destituye senadora Piedad Córdoba por colaborar con FARC

BOGOTA (Reuters)- La senadora Piedad Córdoba, quien promueve una negociación del paz entre el Gobierno de Colombia y las FARC, fue destituida e inhabilitada por 18 años para ejercer cargos públicos por haber promocionado y colaborado con los rebeldes, informó el lunes la Procuraduría General.

La decisión afecta a la legisladora del Partido Liberal, a quien las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) le entregaron en los últimos años varios de los rehenes secuestrados por el grupo rebelde, considerado como una organización terrorista por Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea. El procurador general, Alejandro Ordóñez, dijo que la investigación contra la senadora se originó en los archivos encontrados en los computadores del comandante de las FARC Raúl Reyes, muerto en marzo del 2008 en un bombardeo de militares

colombianos en una zona selvática de Ecuador.

"En ellos se logró establecer que el cruce de documentos entre el grupo guerrillero y la senadora en los que se identificó con los alias de Teodora, Teodora de Bolívar, La Negra y La Negrita, la parlamentaria se extralimitó en sus funciones así como en la autorización dada por el Gobierno para gestionar el intercambio humanitario", reveló el procurador.

"El Ministerio Público estableció con certeza que la senadora emitió consejos al grupo de las FARC relacionados con no enviar videos de personas secuestradas por el grupo insurgente a cambio de grabaciones de voz de los mismos, con el fin de adoptar una mejor estrategia en la búsqueda de sus objetivos", precisó.

La procuraduría, el organismo que se encarga de

vigilar el comportamiento de los funcionarios públicos, aseguró que en la investigación constató que Córdoba instruyó y solicitó a las FARC que suministraran pruebas de vida de los secuestrados con el fin de favorecer a gobiernos de otros países. Además, de acuerdo con el procurador, realizó declaraciones en diferentes actos públicos en los que ejerció actos de promoción con el fin de favorecer los intereses del grupo subversivo.

De inmediato, no se conoció ninguna reacción de la dirigente política que en el pasado negó nexos con la guerrilla y que asegura que su único interés en aportar a la paz del país para detener el conflicto interno de más de cuatro décadas que cobra miles de vidas. Pero el abogado de la senadora, Ciro Quiroz, anunció que impugnará la decisión del procurador Ordóñez. □



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